

Kremlin blockade hits Lithuania

MOSCOW (R) — Lithuania edged closer to economic collapse Friday under the pressure of a Kremlin blockade as Moscow's plans for radical economic reform ran into opposition from the Soviet Union's second biggest republic. Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov threatened to resign if the reforms failed to gain support, apparently heading for confrontation with the Lithuanians, which said it "would stand in firm opposition," and miners who said they might call a national strike. Moscow's blockade of Lithuania, imposed last month to try to force it to rescind its March 11 independence declaration, hit deeper Friday. "Today we cut off the supplies of hot water and steam to all enterprises except those of vital importance, such as food and food-processing plants," said Aleksandras Ambrazavichus, a member of Lithuania's anti-blockade committee. "We expect a number of enterprises which use hot water and steam to be closed from Monday, when we expect 100,000 people to be out of work," he said from the Lithuanian capital Vilnius. In Moscow, Lithuanian deputy Nikolai Medvedev said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had told him he wanted a peaceful end to the crisis.

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Bush names new envoy to Jordan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has announced he will nominate Roger Gran Harrison, a career diplomat with experience in the Defense Department and the State Department, as U.S. ambassador to Jordan. He would succeed Roscoe Seidon Suddarth. Harrison, 47, most recently has served as diplomat-in-residence at Colorado College. From 1987-89 he was deputy assistant defense secretary for politico-military affairs, and from 1985-87, he was political counsellor for the American embassy in Tel Aviv. He has also served in senior positions at the U.S. embassy in London.

Hurd due here on May 30

AMMAN (Petra) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd will pay an official visit to Jordan between 30th May and June 1, 1990. Hurd's visit to Jordan comes in response to an invitation extended to him by his Jordanian counterpart Marwan Al Qasem.

Rabbi says Shamir eats forbidden fish

TEL AVIV (R) — A politically-influential rabbi who helped bring down Israel's government has assailed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for eating fish forbidden by Jewish law. In remarks broadcast by Israel Radio, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, 70, spiritual leader of the ultra-religious Shas party, told other rabbis that Shamir loved to eat forbidden fish while his wife sought out forbidden food at restaurants abroad. Yosef said former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, a leader in Shamir's hardline Likud Party, ate pork, and therefore Likud was no better than the Labour Party.

Normalcy prevails as independence marked

By Nermeen Murad and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — Jordan Friday celebrated Independence Day as calm prevailed in refugee camps in and around Amman and other areas hit by violent protests against last week's massacre of Palestinians near Tel Aviv and in the occupied territories.

A big demonstration was staged in the city of Zarqa marking Independence Day, but it was totally peaceful, residents contacted by telephone said. "The demonstrators carried the Jordanian and Palestinian flags as well as portraits of His Majesty King Hussein and chanted slogans praising the King and Jordan's

stand towards the Palestinian cause," said one resident. No estimate of people taking part in the rally was immediately available, but several residents said it "ran into thousands."

It was the second demonstration in the northern city. On Thursday, residents staged a rally to mark Independence Day in the city (see page 3), two days after it was hit by violent clashes between demonstrators who ran wild and security forces. During Thursday's and Friday's demonstrations, security forces kept vigil and assisted the organised movement of the rallies, residents said.

"We sacrifice our blood and



(Continued on page 5)

Israel turning away from political solution — Qasem

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Jordan said Friday Israel had abandoned political means to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and was trying to create a new reality by resorting to military means.

Addressing a meeting of Arab foreign ministers gathered here to prepare for the May 28 emergency Arab summit, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said that at a time when international relations were taking a new shape, Israel was trying to ensure continued Western support by undermining its role as a guarantor for oil flow from the Middle East even if it meant use of force.

Qasem said Arab support for the Palestinian uprising and the

Arab frontline states is vital for defending the Arab Order and called for "investments for Arab security and stability."

He referred to suggestions that Jordan cut its military spending and reduce the number of its armed forces as part of its economic adjustment programmes.

"We wonder whether these ideas would be accepted by the Arab Nation at a time when Israel is increasing its military preparations in a bid to implement the final phase of its plans to settle the Palestinian problem," he said. "If this is acceptable to you then it practically means that you have voluntarily accepted to abandon the first defence line of the entire Arab Nation," he said.

Qasem reviewed the pressures Jordan has been exposed to since the late seventies and said the Kingdom "would not have been able to resist them had it not been for our resolve to adhere to the causes of our nation ignoring our personal interests."

Qasem said the new international environment had "snatched" from a number of developing countries the margin of movement which was allowed by the two superpowers.

"For special reasons and considerations, the Soviet Union has opted to abandon competition with the United States, thus moving us in a transitional stage

(Continued on page 5)

Police chief says probe on into mob attacks

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Public Security Department (PSD) has launched an investigation into Tuesday's mob attacks against banks, breweries and restaurants in Zarqa and Russeifa and will bring to justice whoever is responsible for instigating and carrying out those attacks.

In a statement he made to the Jordan Times Thursday, PSD Chief Major General Fadel Ali Fheid said justice will take its course against those whose culpability is proven beyond doubt.

Fheid denied accusations that banks, breweries and restaurants were deliberately left without police protection when the mobs attacked them with stones and metal bars or that police reinforcements took too long to arrive at the scene.

In the kind of situation the country was going through that evening, Fheid said, there was no way the police could have been present at every point all the time. But once the security forces knew of the incidents at Zarqa and Russeifa, they moved quickly to restore calm and order, he added.

The general said the police force had leads into who might have been behind the attacks but that any indictment would have to wait until the culpability of any suspects can be proved to courts.

"A crime is a crime, no matter who perpetrates it," said the

(Continued on page 5)

Arafat calls for 'emergency force' to protect Palestinians

GENEVA (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat urged the U.N. Security Council Friday to send an emergency force to protect the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories from a "war of extermination."

Opening an emergency council session, Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), called for an end to the Israeli army's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a ban on Jewish settlements in the territories and international sanctions against Israel.

The PLO leader said the violence "has reached an extremely dangerous and explosive point."

"The situation now requires urgent action in order to enforce

reverence for international legitimacy," he said. "Over 30 months, the Israeli occupation forces have been waging a war of extermination on all fronts."

Arafat vowed the 30-month Palestinian uprising will continue until Israel is ousted from the occupied territories.

He urged appointment of a permanent U.N. envoy to monitor the situation, a Security Council investigation into "all crimes" committed by Israel against Palestinians, and immediate preparations for an international Middle East peace conference.

Early responses from other delegates were largely non-committal, through France said

Arafat's proposal should get "serious consideration."

Israel dismissed any U.N. monitoring of the West Bank and Gaza following an upsurge of violence triggered by an Israeli gunman who killed eight Palestinian labourers last Sunday.

"It requires the consent of all parties and we will not give that consent," Israel's delegate, Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said shortly before the council began the special session in the U.N. European headquarters in Geneva.

Arafat, speaking for nearly an hour, did not say what sort of

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinian dies in Jerusalem; settler stabbed in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian workers stabbed and seriously wounded an Israeli settler in the occupied West Bank Friday while most of the occupied territories were under curfew to prevent unrest.

Palestinians said a 22-year-old Arab collapsed and died on Friday after soldiers chased him from a street barricade in Gaza City. They said Yousef Kamel Ashour had a history of heart problems.

The stabbing victim was in fair condition, an army spokesman said. He said the motive for the stabbing was apparently Palestinian nationalism.

The attack came as the army enforced widespread curfews in

the occupied territories, confining more than a million Palestinians to their homes to prevent violence before Friday prayer services and a speech by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Geneva.

Most of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has been under curfew since Sunday when the massacre of eight Arab labourers by an Israeli gunman set off widespread unrest. Sixteen Palestinians have been killed and hundreds wounded in clashes with the army since the slayings near Tel Aviv.

The army said Friday's attack occurred on the Hamra settlement 12 kilometres east of Nablus, the West Bank's largest city.

Four Palestinians from the nearby village of Tamoun attack-

ed the settler with knives, said the army spokesman.

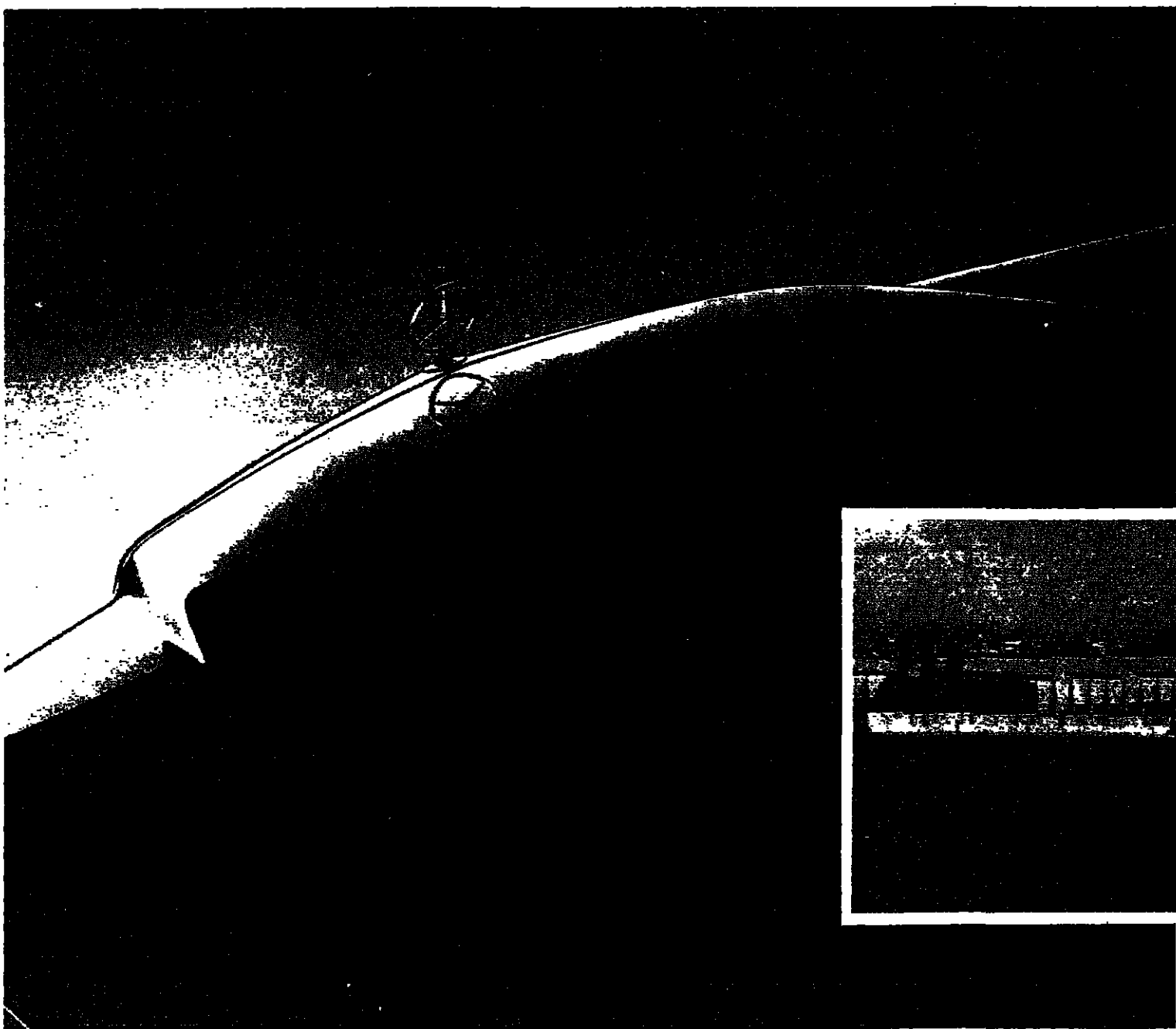
"Four people came up to him, their identities are known. They had worked in Hamra in the past. We don't know what transpired between them and him," Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai, commander over the West Bank, said during a visit.

"To my great regret there have been other incidents of this sort. There could be many reasons for it," he said.

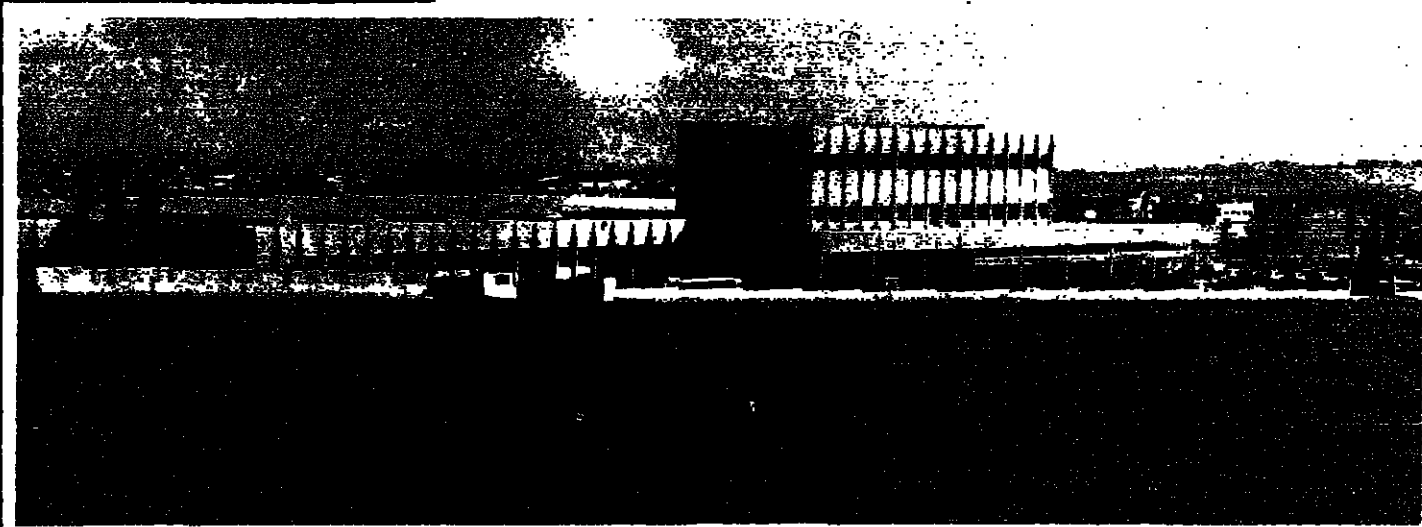
The Islamic Jihad movement in the occupied territories, held responsible for numerous previous stabbings, called in a leaflet earlier this month for "a revolution of knives."

(Continued on page 5)

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Yemeni opposition groups win official foothold in political life

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemeni opposition groups have won an official foothold in political life with the appointment of a handful of their members to the parliament of the three-day-old unified state.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh also named a 45-member council of advisers, including some powerful critics of unification like Sheikh Abdullah Ibn Hussein Al Ahmar, head of the northern Hashid Tribal Confederation. Diplomats say the sheikh has a private army of at least 25,000 men.

Brigadier Abdullah Hussein Al Busheiri, the former North Yemeni chief of staff, was named to head the 64,000-man armed forces of the combined state.

After years spent in exile — southern dissenters in North Yemen and northerners in the South — opposition groups are gearing up for a promised era of multi-party politics in the united Yemeni republic proclaimed Tuesday.

During a 30-month run-up to general elections parliament will have 301 members: the 159 members of the former northern assembly, the South's 111 MPs and 31 chosen by President Saleh, former leader of the North.

Nearly half of the 31 lawmakers named Thursday night were drawn from opposition groups. Others included independents and members of the ruling parties in the two former states.

Mohammad Ali Haidhen, a southern dissident who was once prime minister, told Reuters the opposition parties were not consulted about the parliamentary appointments and none of the chosen members were heads of their organisations.

But he added: "They are probably the most effective representative of their political parties."

Five of the MPs were drawn from the Democratic Unionist Party, the followers of Ali Nasser Mohammad who was overthrown as southern president in 1986 and took refuge in the North.

Four of the new appointees are from the National Democratic Front, the main northern opposition group formerly based in the

southern capital Aden. Ali Sheikh Omer was the only representative of the National Congress, a coalition of exiled southern groups.

Other appointees included pro-Iraqi Baathist Abdul Rahman Mahjoub and pro-Syrian Baathist Abdul Hafidh Qaid. The two Baath parties have agreed to cooperate for the sake of Yemeni unity but analysts say a merger is unlikely.

Najib Qahtan Al Shaabi, son of the first president of South Yemen, and Abdullah Saleh Saba, who was once the South's police commissioner, were also named to sit in parliament.

The advisory council includes the South's Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas, prime minister in the unity cabinet announced Thursday, and vice-president Ali Salem Al Beidh, former leader of the South's Socialist Party.

Saleh appointed a 39-man cabinet to oversee a transitional period prior to multi-party elections in 1992.

Decrees issued last Thursday by Saleh listed a cabinet selected by Attas with a balanced representation from North and South.

Attas, former figurehead president of the South, stressed in a public announcement "efficiency... and ability to shoulder a historic responsibility" as criteria for his choice of 20 from the North and 18 plus himself from the South in the new cabinet.

His first deputy premier is Hassan Mohammad Makki, formerly deputy prime minister of the North.

Saleh, the ruler of the merged state and former president of the North, is flanked by Vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh.

Beidh's "perestroika" last year was the catalyst that made the long-standing push of the North for a merger finally succeed.

Together with Saleh, Beidh dropped several procedural steps for the merger.

United Yemen's first government

SANAA (R) — The first government of the Yemeni Republic, announced on Sanaa television Thursday after Tuesday's merger of North and South Yemen:

President Ali Abdullah Saleh (North)
Vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh (South)
Presidential Council: Ali Abdullah Saleh, Ali Salem Al Beidh, Kadi Abdul Karim Al Arashi (North), Abdul Aziz Abdalghani (North), Salem Saleh Mohammad (South)....

Cabinet

Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas (South)
First Deputy Prime Minister Hassan Mohammad Makki (North)
Deputy P.M., Internal Affairs Majid Abu Shawarab (North)
Dep. P.M., Security/Defence Brig. Saleh Obeid Ahmad (South)
Dep. P.M., Labour/Administrative Reform Mohammed Haider Masdous (South)

Ministers

Reconstruction Abdullah Hussein Al Khurshumi (North)
Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Al Iryani (North)
Yemeni Expatriates Saleh Mohammad Al Sa'idi (South)
Industry Mohammed Said Al Attar (North)
Oil and Minerals Saleh Abu Bakr Ibn Hussain (South)
Supply and Trade Fadila Mohab Abdallah (South)
Local Administration Mohammed Saeed Abdallah (South)
Interior Ghaleb Al Qumeshi (North)
Finance Elwi Saleh Al Salami (North)
Education Mohammed Abdullah Al Jaifi (North)
Justice Abdul Wase Abdal Salam (South)
Religious Guidance Mahina Mohammed Al Uthfi (North)
Information Mohammed Ahmad Garboush (South)
Culture Hassan Al Lami (North)
Transport Saleh Abdullah Mushannu (South)
Fisheries Saleh Mohammad Jabran (South)
Housing/Urban Planning Abdul Qawi Muthana Hadi (South)
Health Mohammed Ali Mugabli (North)
Agriculture/Water resources Sadeq Amin Abu Ras (North)
Tourism Mohammed Abdullah Al Arsi (South)
Defence Haidhen Qasim Taher (South)
Labour Vocational Training Abdul Rahman Dhalaban (South)
Higher Education/Science Ahmed Saleh Al Qadhi (South)
Electricity/Water Abdul Wahab Mahmoud Abdul Haseel (North)

Ministers of State

Foreign Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Dafi (South)
Cabinet Affairs Yahya Hussein Al Arashi (North)
Parliamentary Affairs Rashid Mohammad Thabit (South)
Without Portfolio Mahina Ali Al Hasebani (North)

Poll results cancelled in 10 Syrian districts

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria has cancelled results from 10 polling stations after reports of vote fraud in general elections earlier this week.

Interior Minister Mohammad Harba said in a statement he had received reports from Central Polling Committees in two cities that results from the 10 stations were void because the number of ballots did not match the number of people known to have voted.

He said investigators would question electoral supervisors in the districts concerned.

Syrians voted Tuesday and Wednesday in elections for 250 members for parliament. Nearly 9,000 candidates competed in the poll, marked by the most lively campaigning in Syria in more than 20 years.

The minister said the cancelled results were from seven stations in the northwestern port city of

Latakia and three in the central city of Dayr Al Zor.

He said polling in the Dayr Al Zor districts would be repeated starting Thursday and in Latakia starting Friday.

According to the election law voting hours on the first day are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on the second day 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Legal experts said the new voting might postpone announcement of final results.

Algeria confirms Abu Nidal group infighting

ALGIERS (R) — Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche has said a kidnapping attempt had taken place in Algeria involving a factional fight within a Palestinian group.

He gave few details, but a dissident from the Fateh Revolutionary Council of Abu Nidal said last month one of his colleagues had been attacked in Algiers on April 25.

"Palestinians have always had internal problems. Until now Algeria has been spared. Now unfortunately there was a case, a kidnapping attempt that was controlled and eliminated by our (security) services," Hamrouche told state radio.

The dissident, Atef Abu Bakr, broke with Abu Nidal last October and accused him of killing scores of members of the organisation in Libya.

Abu Bakr said the colleague, Abderrahman Issa, was the target of an assassination attempt by three men, one of whom Issa recognised as working at Abu Nidal's Algiers office.

Diplomatic sources in Algiers said Issa had been wounded.

Severe quakes shake south Sudan

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Severe earthquakes repeatedly shook southern Sudan for the second time in a week Thursday, leaving people in the provincial town of Juba "very scared," travellers reaching Nairobi said Friday.

"It went on and off all night. A building at the airport collapsed and there appears to be damage in the town," said Bob Koopp of the Lutheran World Federation.

Koopp runs a relief air shuttle from Nairobi and was relaying a report from one of his pilots who made a round trip to Juba Friday morning.

The pilot did not go into town and had no information about possible casualties, Koopp said. He added the runway had sustained no damage.

Koopp reported the pilot as saying the quake began at 9.35 p.m. (1835 GMT) with tremors continuing until 5 a.m. (0200

GMT). The U.S. Geological Survey in Boulder, Colorado, reported a quake measuring 7.1 on the Richter Scale struck about 80 kilometres east of Juba shortly after a 6.8 tremor rocked the same area.

The Hong Kong Observatory also reported a 6.8 tremor in the same region but made no mention of the 7.1 quake.

The quakes were strong enough to be felt in neighbouring Uganda and western Kenya and shook buildings near Lake Victoria, about 600 kilometres south of the epicentre, the Daily Nation newspaper of Nairobi reported Friday.

In Cairo, Rashad M. Kebeasy, a geologist, said the quakes were aftershocks of last weekend's earthquake.

"They're too big, but they definitely are aftershocks. We told the Sudanese embassy to expect

severe aftershocks like these," Kebeasy said.

He is president of Egypt's National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics.

The quakes were in the same area where one measuring 7.4 struck Saturday. The area is sparsely populated, with the few residences consisting of grass-thatched mud huts.

The Hong Kong Centre said the quake's epicentre was 1,066 kilometres south of Khartoum.

The Richter Scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by ground motion recorded on a seismograph.

Every increase of one number means that the ground motion is 10 times greater. A quake of magnitude 6 can cause severe damage on land while a tremor of magnitude 7 is capable of causing heavy and widespread damage.

Iran agrees to resume stalled Gulf peace talks

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran has agreed to resume stalled peace talks with Iraq, Deputy Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said Friday.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Cyprus, reported Mottaki as saying that Iran had given a "positive response" to a recent letter by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein calling for a resumption of the talks.

Mottaki added that "we hope the Iraqi government has found a political decision for a durable peace between the two countries," IRNA said.

The full contents of Saddam's letter have not been disclosed. But according to press reports in Tehran and Kuwait, it includes a renewed demand for talks and concedes that the sovereignty of the Shatt Al Arab waterway is negotiable.

Iraq's claim over the strategic waterway was the main stumbling block in peace talks which began five days after an Aug. 20, 1988 ceasefire suspended eight years of war between the two Gulf foes.

Baghdad has refused to recognise a 1975 treaty drawing part of the Iran-Iraq border mid-stream in the Shatt Al Arab, and has laid full claim to the strategic waterway.

Tehran also insists that Baghdad withdraw troops from Iranian territory captured towards the end of the war.

Four rounds of United Nations sponsored talks, the last in April 1989, were stalled without any resolution of the hurdles.

The English-language Tehran Times on May 12, quoted Rafsan-

jani as saying he saw some signs of sincerity in the Iraqi message, but that he was concerned about "the other side's intentions."

The newspaper said this reflected Iran's fears that Iraq wanted direct peace talks with Iran, but outside the United Nations Resolution 598, which halted the conflict.

"It can be gleaned that Iraq wishes to hold direct talks with Iran, but outside the framework provided by the U.N. resolution," the paper said.

An Iranian parliamentarian, Sadeq Khalafkhal, said earlier this month that Tehran's reply insisted Saddam was responsible for the war.

The failure of both sides to achieve a lasting peace 21 months after the uneasy ceasefire has forced Iran to quietly drop key demands such as the appointment of an impartial international body to inquire into responsibility for the conflict.

More than a year has also passed since Tehran made any mention of war reparations, which it earlier demanded must be paid by Baghdad for starting the conflict.

Mottaki added Friday that Tehran has agreed to the repatriation of all sick and disabled prisoners of war held on both sides.

Apart from the ailing prisoners, Iran has refused to swap some 100,000 POWs held by both countries until Iraq agrees to withdraw troops and reaffirms recognition of the Iranian boundary mid-stream in the Shatt Al Arab.

Killings badly damaged Soviet-Israeli ties — Capitsa

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The head of a rare Soviet delegation to Israel said Friday the killing of seven Arabs by a Jewish gunman and the subsequent deaths of Arab protesters had seriously damaged Soviet-Israeli relations.

Mikhail Capitsa, a member of the Soviet parliament, told Arabs wounded in the unrest that he backed their 29-month-old revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied Arab territories.

A former deputy foreign minister, Capitsa told reporters during his visit to an East Jerusalem hospital: "During the last week, Israel has badly damaged — I would say sabotaged — relations with the Soviet Union."

Palestinians object to Moscow's liberalised emigration rules allowing a flood of Soviet Jews to settle in Israel. The Palestinians fear the newcomers will displace them.

At least 33,000 Soviet Jews arrived in the first four months of 1990. Immigration officials predict 20,000 in July and treasury officials expect 150,000 by year's end.

Israel has come under fire from world powers since the murder of seven Arab workers last Sunday by a crazed Israeli triggered unrest in which 16 Arabs died.

Moscow severed ties with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war, when the Jewish state occupied the territories, but has since resumed consular ties and relations were perceived as warming until this week's bloodshed.

"We came here to get acquainted with the situation here and to report back to the Supreme Soviet (parliament)," delegate Georgy Shmelev told Reuters.

On their visit to hospitals in East Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Beit Jala, members

of the five-strong delegation from the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee asked few questions.

Analysts said the visit, arranged with Palestinian leaders well before this week's killings, appeared to be more a political signal to Israel's government than a serious inquiry.

Capitsa warned Thursday that the settlement of Soviet immigrants in the Israeli-occupied lands would block chances for "normal relations" between Israel and the Soviet Union.

He also strongly criticised Israeli crackdown on the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We are not all happy with what has been happening here... this is in direct contradiction with the trends in the world today. It is moving towards cooperation and here people shoot at each other," Capitsa told reporters at the airport near Tel Aviv.

"The Israelis and the Palestinians must talk to each other," he said.

The Soviet delegation arrived Thursday at the invitation of a private Palestinian think tank in Arab Jerusalem.

Capitsa indicated the delegation would visit the occupied areas, saying he wanted "to see the situation here as it is with my own eyes."

He said no meeting have been scheduled with Israeli officials, but added a political message to the country's leaders.

"Israel is behaving like an elephant in a China shop, halting process of normalisation in the relations with Soviet Union," he said.

"If Israel wants to continue settling Soviet immigrants (in the occupied Arab territories), it will put a stop to the chances for normal relations," Capitsa said.

'Lack of confidence' prevents Afghan peace

KABUL (R) — A crisis of confidence is the only obstacle to peace in Afghanistan's 12 year civil war, a senior government official said Friday.

As he spoke government forces and rebels continued to bombard each other with rockets. Several could be heard landing in Kabul but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The rebels have stepped up their attacks on the city, sending in up to 30 rockets a day.

"Now there is a crisis of confidence. This is the only obstacle," in-pollitru member Fared Mazdak told foreign reporters.

He did not elaborate, but diplomats note that President Najibullah, former head of the feared khad security police, is regarded as having only a small political base.

Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) has been criticised for clinging to power although it has little broad appeal and therefore trust.

Since 1978, an estimated one million Afghans have died and another five million have sought refuge abroad as the Soviet-backed government and Mujahideen rebels supported by the United States have fought for the right to rule this impoverished country.

Dressed in military fatigues, Mazdak, 32, said a new cabinet and proposed revamp of the constitution to guarantee a more democratic form of rule would give the government a broader base.

The government presented its new cabinet Monday and although the PDP retained several key portfolios, a number of ministries went to Western-educated technocrats.

Najibullah has pressed ahead with significant constitutional changes, erasing much of the heritage of the 1978 Marxist revolution in his efforts to achieve national reconciliation.

These must be approved by a grand tribal assembly, Loya Jirga, now expected to be held sometime next week, but political analysts say it will have little impact because nearly half the population — refugees and those living in rebel — held areas — will not be represented.

"I hope this government will pave the way for more understanding among the forces involved in the conflict," said Mazdak, the youngest member of the politburo and a secretary of the PDP.

He said the Mujahideen are increasingly aware of the need to negotiate, apart from rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Rebel leaders based in neighbouring Iran and Pakistan have so far refused to negotiate with the Kabul government unless Najibullah steps down.

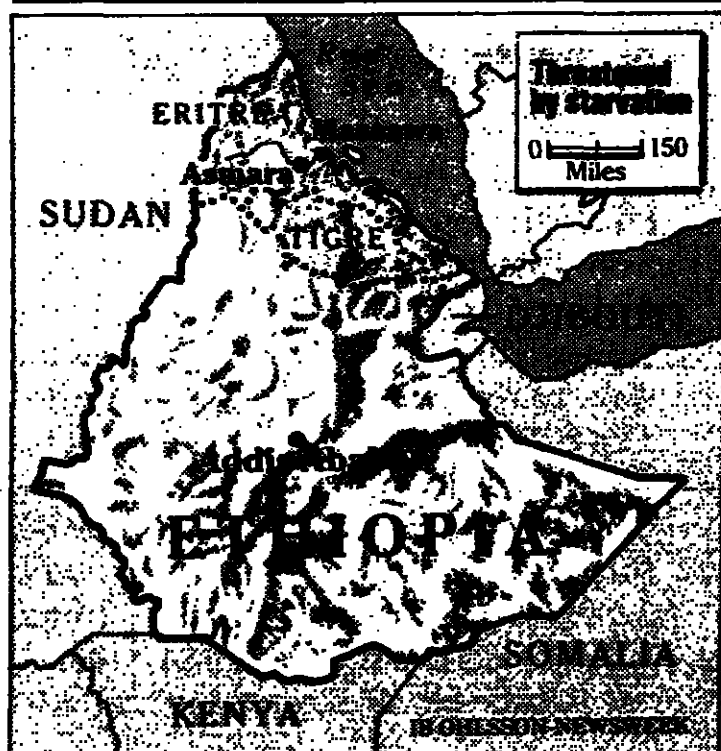
"It will only increase the problem because stepping down is not the way," Mazdak said, adding Kabul could also demand rebel leaders do the same.

"I think negotiation and dialogue is imperative because the armed and political forces are so split."

Ex-King Zahir Shah, 74, now living in Rome after being ousted in 1973 and who takes a neutral line, could play a role in bridging the gap in confidence, he said.

He hoped next week's summit between the U.S. and the Soviet Union would help find a solution by leading to an agreement to stop providing arms to the two warring sides.

Kabul wants talks with rebels to coincide with a ceasefire and ultimately seeks United Nations supervised elections.



Rebels report wiping out 3 Ethiopian battalions

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in northern Ethiopia said Friday they killed 1,400 soldiers when they wiped out three government battalions in a spectacular battle this week.

A spokesman for the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said rebels attacked Lemi garrison in northern Shoa, about 160 kilometres north of Addis Ababa, Tuesday.

There was no independent confirmation of the TPLF report and no word from the government, which does not generally comment on battles against the rebels.

The three battalions stationed at Lemi were annihilated, TPLF spokesman Tewelde Gabre told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone from London.

Several commanders were among the dead and 2,000 soldiers captured, he said.

"It was a spectacular battle. It was important because the garri-

son was there to stop us moving around this part of Shoa," Tewelde said.

The main battalion at Lemi, near the town of Alem Ketema, was the 102nd Airborne Division, one of President Mengistu Haile Mariam's most "trusted and reliable divisions," Tewelde said.

The TPLF and its allies, fighting to overthrow Mengistu's Soviet-backed government and set up a broader-based administration, control the whole of northern Tigray province and parts of Wollo, Gondar and Shoa to the south.

Since late December, government forces have had some success pushing rebels north. But in March the rebels said they had begun to advance south into Shoa again.

In a separate development, Britain has donated two prefabricated bridges to help truck food to famine victims in northern Ethiopia.

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Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzianian Church Tel. 622566	
Church of the Assumption Tel. 625541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
St. Ignace International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 612545	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively hot and windy	
will be northwesterly to moderate, in Amman, winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and sea calm.	
Amman	
16/13	Min./max. temp.
Amman	16/13
Aqaba	22/19
Deserts	16/13
Jordan Valley	20/37
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jabr	775020
Dr. Ismael Al Hawashneh	605123
Dr. David Al Soudani	682535
Dr. Ahmed Al Daga	676473
First pharmacy	661912
Al Aqsa pharmacy	675055
Al Aqsa pharmacy	675055
Nasrallah pharmacy	623672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
JERUSALEM:	
Dr. Ibrahim Al Rabadi	(-



Minister of Information Ibrahim Ismail Thursday receives a 15-member U.N. fact finding mission (Petra photo)

U.N. fact finding mission in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A United Nations fact finding mission arrived in Amman Thursday to investigate the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the mission members were received by Minister of Information Ibrahim Ismail.

The mission members were received by Minister of Information Ibrahim Ismail, who drew attention to the dangers inherent in continued Soviet Jewish immigration in Palestine and the settlement of immigrants on Arab-owned lands.

The mission also explained

Jordan's position with regard to current world developments and its demand for a just settlement for the Palestinian problem.

Ismail criticized western campaigns against Iraq's efforts to acquire defensive weapons in the face of Israel's threats.

The mission members, who are on a tour of the Middle East region, also met with Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs, who discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Qatanani spoke in depth about Israel's continued human rights

violations in occupied Palestine, its seizure of Arab lands, the demolition of Arab homes and the killing of innocent civilians.

Qatanani reviewed the Jordanian government cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in providing basic services to the Palestinian refugees living in Jordan and Jordan's cooperation with UNRWA in helping it raise funds from donor nations, to finance the agency's services.

The 15-member delegation who came to Jordan from Syria, is scheduled to leave Sunday for Cairo.



Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fakh Wednesday opens an industrial exhibition at Yarmouk University (Petra photo)

Industrial exhibition held on independence anniversary

IRBID (J.T.) — An industrial exhibition which opened at Yarmouk University in Irbid Wednesday is to last until the end of the month and is being staged as part of Jordan's celebrations of its 44th independence anniversary, according to the organizers.

They said that products by 140 factories and industrial businesses are on display at the exhibition

which was formally opened by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fakh who deposited for His Majesty King Hussein.

The exhibition, organized by the Amman Chamber of Industry together with the Irbid Chamber of Commerce and Yarmouk University is displaying leather and plastic products, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, chemical products, engineering equipment, furniture, wooden doors, kitchens,

paper and cardboard equipment used in printing, processed food, textiles and handicrafts.

The Amman Chamber of Industry plans to organize other exhibitions in Maan and Zarqa in August and November marking the King's accession to the throne anniversary and the King's birthday respectively.

Chamber of Industry officials attended the opening session.

Calm restored in the Kingdom

AMMAN (J.T.) — At least seven people injured in the recent violent protests staged in Jordanian cities in protest against the killing of Palestinians in Israel and the occupied Arab territories, were still under treatment at Al Hussein Medical Centre Friday.

A hospital source told the Jordan Times that four civilians and three police officers were being treated as a result of injuries sustained during the protests, but their condition was not serious.

His Majesty King Hussein visited the injured in hospital Thursday wishing them speedy recovery. The King instructed that everything possible be done to ensure their full recovery and their return to their families safely.

Calm has now returned to the refugee camps and Jordanian towns following violent protests in which at least two persons were reported dead and 25 others injured.

In the meantime, committees have been set up in one of Amman's refugee camps which witnessed violent protests in the past

week in order to restore normal life to the camp.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra said that the committees held a general meeting at Al Diffaain Sports Club attended by two Parliament members and Palestine ambassador to Jordan to chart plans for a return to normal life in the Wihdat camp.

Thousand of camp residents took part in anti-Israeli demonstrations, some of which were violent and witnessed confrontations with riot police who used tear gas to disperse the protesters.

Lower House of Parliament members Seifuddin Murad and Yacoub Qarrash, along with Palestine Ambassador Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim, attended the meeting during which the committees endorsed plans to restore calm to the Wihdat refugee camp and to insure law and order, said Petra.

The agency said the committees had already embarked on their objective to end all forms of protests and to ensure continued security for the camp's residents.

ACC members to boost cooperation in civic affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint committee, entrusted with implementing the agreement of cooperation in the field of local

administration and municipal affairs among the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states Friday concluded its meetings here after drawing up an implementation mechanism to be submitted to the prime ministers of the ACC member states during their June meeting.

Chairman of the committee, Awad Al Tal, who is the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment secretary-general said the mechanism called for setting up a joint liaison unit which will be charged with forming sub-committees and updating methods of work.

The unit will also be in charge of organizing methods of work and management, training courses and undertaking joint research and studies.

Tal said the committee also recommended the formation of two other committees, one for studying the legislations in force and the other for studying means of coordinating and updating the functions and duties of local councils.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- * Exhibition of paintings by Randa Baroud at Goethe Institute.
- * Exhibition displaying traditional Syrian handicraft by Syrian weavers and hand-loomed textile by Mustafa Fathi at the French Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- * Spanish films on art at Alia Art Gallery — 6:30 p.m.

LECTURES

- * Lecture entitled "The Haber Triangle (Syria) Looking at Villages at the Time of the First Cities" by Prof. Dr. Helga Seiden at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

THEATRE

- * French play entitled "Tranches des vies" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:15 p.m.



Zarqa residents Thursday take part in Independence Day celebrations (Petra photo)

Celebrations mark Independence Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian people marked the Kingdom's Independence Day with processions and celebrations held in various parts of the country.

Zarqa, one of the cities to witness violent demonstrations in the past two days in protest of the killing of Palestinians in Israel and in the occupied Arab territories, staged several marches in commemoration of independence from British rule in 1946.

Marchers carried banners and the King's portraits, expressing their joy over the anniversary.

In a telephone call to the governor of Zarqa, King Hussein paid tribute to the efforts of the local citizens who cooperated with the local authorities to erase the traces of the negative behaviour on the part of certain elements in the city during the protests and to their cooperation for resuming the process of reconstruction.

King Hussein sent his greetings and good wishes to the Jordanian people on the eve of the independence anniversary.

In a message read over Jordan Television, King Hussein pledged to remain steadfast in leading Jordan towards further progress in the face of all challenges.

Following are major excerpts of the King's message:

On this anniversary, I send greetings to all members of the Jordanian family. I have a deep

feeling of pride in what the Jordanian people have achieved since independence. As we celebrate the day, we feel we must do all that we can to protect our independence, our gains, and achievements. We are bound to be true to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt which advocated freedom and unity, and we will remain steadfast, defending our nation regardless of the sacrifices.

We feel grateful to our predecessors and the vanguards of the Great Arab Revolt, and are proud of their efforts to serve the Arab Nation.

We are grateful to the founder of the Kingdom, the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, who confronted colonialist plots and saved our Kingdom from conspiracies.

I pledge to pursue endeavours at all levels and to work with my people to make Jordan a steadfast country in the face of threats and to repel aggression through stronger cohesion and national unity.

On the anniversary of independence, King Hussein received cables of good wishes from heads of state of Arab and foreign friendly nations.

One of the messages came from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, in which the Palestine leader paid tribute to the King for his efforts at the Arab, regional

and international levels to advocate the Palestinian cause and to extend support and assistance to the Palestinian people.

"We share with Jordan its rejoicing over its independence anniversary, and hope that the joint Palestinian-Jordanian struggle will eventually lead to terminating the Israeli occupation of Arab lands in Palestine," said Arafat in his message.

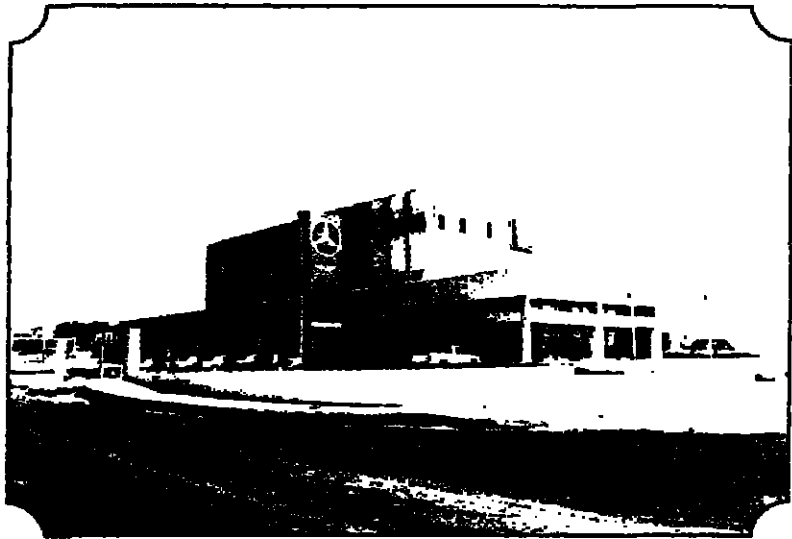
Cables also came from the Moroccan Monarch, Sultan Qaboos of Oman, presidents of Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Algeria, Mauritania, United Arab Emirates, Emir of Kuwait, Emir of Qatar and Emir of Bahrain. The King also received congratulatory cables from Queen Elizabeth of Britain, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Emperor of Japan, American President George Bush, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as well as other world leaders.

The King also received congratulatory cables from Arab League secretary-general, Arab Cooperation Council secretary-general, Kuwaiti crown prince, Qatari crown prince, prime minister of Bahrain, vice-president of the United Arab Emirates and the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan.

To mark the anniversary all government departments and public institutions remained closed Thursday.



Arab Bank
congratulates



Tewfik Gargour and Sons Co.
on the opening of the new sales
and service centre for
Mercedes-Benz

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Argentina

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to Argentine President Carlos Menem congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Argentina's Independence Day anniversary. The King expressed hope that cooperation between Jordan and Argentina would be enhanced.

Prince Hassan praises Zarqa citizens

ZARQA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan lauded the citizens in Zarqa governorate for their cooperation in removing the bad aspects which resulted from the anti-Israeli demonstrations protesting the killing of eight Palestinian labourers and the Israeli actions in the occupied territories. In a telephone conversation with Zarqa governor Thursday, Prince Hassan asked the governor to convey his greetings and congratulations to citizens in Zarqa governorate and its camps on the occasion of the Kingdom's Independence Day anniversary.

Doctors' conference reviews health issues

AMMAN (Petra) — The joint conference by the Arab Doctors Association and the Jordan Medical Association confirmed its sessions Friday at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering. Several working papers on a number of diseases in the Arab World were discussed. The papers reviewed the development

achieved in several Arab countries in medical fields and stressed the importance of exchanging expertise and researches between Arab countries. The meeting, held under the slogan "Arab doctors in the service of Palestinian people's intifada," is attended by 1,450 specialists and doctors from Jordan, Arab and foreign countries.

Environment must be protected

AMMAN (Petra) — Several University of Jordan graduates organised a voluntary campaign aimed at spreading awareness among the public on the importance of conserving the environment and the natural resources in the Kingdom. The campaign included distribution of brochures and garbage bags in picnic sites and planting of trees. The campaign comes to stress the role played by individuals in conserving the environment and the natural resources in Jordan.

Restaurateurs elect council

AMMAN (Petra) — The general assembly of the restaurants and confectionaries owners association met Friday and elected the association's council for the next session. Yassin Ukash was elected president, Issa Al Saadi vice-president, Jirir Mdanat secretary and Basam Kawash treasurer. Mohammad Milhim, Yousef Jibr, Mustafa Zayed, Ghazi Al Zoubi and Jamil Darwish are members of the council.

Jordan Times

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Yemeni unity — a shining example

THE unity between the two Yemeni states is one of the best pieces of news that the Arab World has heard for a long time. Coming as it does on the eve of the Arab summit, the merger of the two Yemeni states poses one of the most positive challenges to the Arab leaders when they meet in Baghdad May 28. Not that other Arab states can emulate the Yemeni action by a stroke of a pen. The two Yemeni countries had painstakingly worked for forging unity between them over the past few years. They also had institutionalised every step of the way that they took on the road to formal unity between them. Above all, the two countries pursued their quest for unity with full conviction and faith that unity between them is their mutual insurance for progressive growth and development. And by offering the Yemeni example to the Arab World as a model for other Arab countries to scrutinise and follow, the leaders of the two countries have in effect set the stage for additional Arab efforts towards real Arab cooperation and harmony. Only through the Yemeni style of Arab unity can the Arab World ever hope to be ready to confront the issues and challenges of the 21st century.

Coupled with the sense of pride that all Arabs now feel about the Yemeni union, there is also the feeling of envy and frustration that is felt by all Arab nationalists. As far as Jordan and Jordanians are concerned, we are blessed already with the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which promises to be the nucleus of real unity among its member states. With the new united Yemen remaining an effective part of this council, there is every hope that the achievements of the Yemenis would be reflected within the entire membership of the ACC. Over and above the expression of joy and support over the Yemeni unity by the other members of the ACC, it behoves them to move expeditiously in the direction that one of its founding partners has taken with so much glory and admiration.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN dailies on Friday recalled Jordan's struggle and achievements since 1946 when the country won its independence from Britain, and paid tribute to the country's Hashemite leadership and the efforts of the Jordanian people. The Kingdom has, over the past four decades, confronted and overcome numerous difficult situations and problems, and has been able to thwart the designs of the hostile forces and the Israeli enemy. At Ra'i daily said. The present difficult circumstances this country is passing through, and the pan-Arab and national responsibilities it carries serve as a test for the resilience of the Jordanian people and its leadership who confidently confront the hardships and continue the struggle at all costs, the paper noted. Despite the hardships, said the paper, Jordan will never deviate from its national course of action and will remain true to the principles and the goals of the Great Arab Revolt. But, the paper noted, for this march towards progress to achieve success, a greater measure of national unity and cohesion is required, and further steadfastness is needed and more sacrifices are demanded from all people.

The Zionist rulers in Israel are now feverishly concocting plans and desperately attempting to quell the Palestinian people's uprising, lest the Palestinian youths destroy the dreams of the Jewish state in creating a greater Israel, says Abdul Rahim Omar in his column in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The Zionist rulers of Israel are following the pattern adopted by their ancient King Herod who heard of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem and sent in his troops to kill all the newly born babies lest Jesus will assume the leadership of the Jewish people in later years. In making the contrast, the writer notes, that the children of the intifada are causing alarm in the Israeli society, and as Jesus had escaped the massacre, these children of Palestine will also escape the oppression and live to see their Palestine state established in their own homeland. For this reason, the writer notes, the Zionist rulers perpetrated the black Sunday killings of the Arab workers in a bid to unleash the settlers' criminal character in Palestine and to open the way for further massacres that could end the presence of the children who are only armed with stones to regain their usurped homeland.

Al Dustour daily said Friday that the Independence Day anniversary reminded Jordanians of their own achievements and those of their ancestors who laid the foundation for the country and offered sacrifices for the establishment of the Kingdom. The paper said that one can only remember with pride the achievements of the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt who fought for the sake of protecting Arab freedom and for independence from colonial rule; and for making Jordan a strong fortress in the face of external dangers. To protect the country's independence and gains, the Jordanian people are called on to make further sacrifices and to double their efforts in construction and development, said the paper. The King's message to his people on the eve of the anniversary, the paper said, should serve as an incentive; and his pledge to work with the Jordanian citizens in the face of hardships should prompt more endeavours to serve the future generations.

View From Amman

FAIRUZ, the famous Lebanese singer croons, "I have faith... the rumbling wrath is coming." The song she sings is about Jerusalem, the Arab city now under occupation. Over the past millennia many conquerors have come and gone till the City of Peace learned to live with almost every invader conquering and bewitching him while being conquered by him. No conqueror, however, has left the heavy shadow and the mark of death like the Israeli Zionists.

It is almost a century since the first Zionist settlement was established in Palestine in the late nineteenth century. Neither Arab generosity nor the charms of Jerusalem, have thus far been able to infiltrate the Zionist psyche and tame some of the wildness there. The wandering Jew may have physically forced himself on the land but mentally he is still a wanderer of the wild whose spirit is haunted by ancient hatreds and animosities.

One cannot speak in logical terms with the man called Shamir, nor with his predecessor called Begin, nor indeed with most members of the invading

hordes. And an invading horde they are, fired with a zealot ideology that in their own mind gives them the right to kill and main indiscriminately.

It is not a nation, nor indeed a state that harbors so much blind hatred for everything human and decent. A state, by definition, even the most tyrannical and primitive one must try to abide by, or at least try to appear to abide by certain norms, rules of behaviour, and laws. The disdain that Israel has consistently displayed against not only international, but domestic laws and rules of behaviour has placed it beyond the pale of civilised human behaviour except in the eyes of the West, particularly except in the eyes of America.

Was the man who killed seven unarmed Palestinian day workers deranged or was the society that produced him? On Sunday May 20, 1990, the man stood before the hapless unarmed Palestinians and commenced to shoot to kill. He killed. But where did he learn to kill, and who were his mentors? Who paid for the bullets with which he murdered and who supplied the money, sup-

port, the wherewithal that allows all Israelis to continue to do what they are doing?

Israel is not a state like other states of the region nor indeed elsewhere in the international community. A state, to be a state, must have well defined parameters in terms of its geography and demography. No one knows; and the Israelis are not telling, where their borders lie. The United States knows its borders and the borders of every state within the

union. And though it supports Israel economically, militarily, morally and financially, it too does not know where the boundaries of Israel lie. Similarly no one seems to have any clear definition as to, who the Israelis are nor does any one know the definition of a Jew. Again Israel is not telling, nor are there any signs, that it will tell in the future.

This leaves us in a quandary as to how to define Israel. One

though is that it is more like an underground operation operating over ground, a sort of terror organisation, a wolf in sheep's clothing who has convinced a major portion of mankind that it is something else. For reasons of domestic politics and the so-called guilt feeling, the West chooses deliberately to misunderstand us and to convince itself that the wolf is really not a wolf.

For nearly thirty months, young boys and girls from Palestine have been abused and killed on a daily basis while the so-called civilised world is watching. One ambassador from a civilised Western country told me last week that people in his country do not watch the news about the intifada anymore. It has become "routine," he said.

The terrorist organisation called Israel has not only succeeded in immunising itself against humanity but in doing so to those who back it as well. Who is the truly deranged... the one whose hand pulls the trigger or the one sitting in a far away office watching the butchery while his heart expands with more malice? Sha-

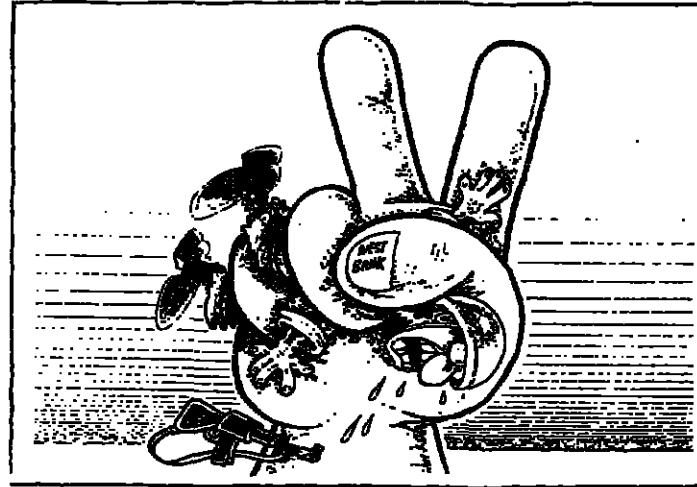
mir, the Pole, whose skin may have been tattooed in Nazi terror camps, or the cool headed think tank "intellectuals" and terror planners sitting in air conditioned offices in New York, London, Paris or Rome?

The deranged killer killed only seven on Sunday and the army of the Israeli state terror organisation killed eight and wounded 700 on the same day. The death of one of the victims, like other victims, of the intifada was announced in the following manner in the local daily Al Dustour on May 21: "The wedding of a martyr."

The family of Abu Daqqah in the Gaza Strip, Jordan and abroad announces the death of the martyred hero Yusef Ibrahim Mansur Abu Daqqah. Martyred on the soil of Palestine in the Massacre of Black Sunday May 20, 1990. Congratulations are accepted at the Abu Daqqah house in Al Wihdat, Mosabba Street, behind Al Ahs Pharmacy.

May he rest in peace

The rumbling wrath



Reformer Gorbachev threatened by economic, political crisis

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev imposed the biggest social and political changes ever seen in the Soviet Union, only to be threatened with their collapse because of economic crisis and demands for independence by the Baltic republics.

As he headed for a summit in Washington with U.S. President George Bush at which major disarmament accords are to be signed, the world which applauded his foreign policies wondered whether he could survive his troubles at home.

As head of state and Communist Party chief, Gorbachev has altered the superpower relationship, boosted disarmament, pulled Soviet troops out of Afghanistan and allowed a peaceful revolution in Eastern Europe, paving the way for German unity.

He introduced striking political reforms, abolishing the Communist Party's monopoly on power, opening the way to a multi-party system, and changing the constitution to give real power to the Soviet parliament in Moscow and the 15 republics.

After five years as Communist Party chief, a post he assumed on March 11, 1985, Gorbachev added to his powers by becoming executive president of his country on March 15, 1990.

But his new authority did not solve growing domestic difficulties, many of which had been simmering for many years but were exposed by his liberal policies of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring).

The Baltic republic of Lithuania declared its independence and Latvia and Estonia announced they also wanted to leave the Soviet Union, creating a moral and constitutional crisis for Gorbachev and friction in his relations with the West.

And after five years of tinkering with economic reforms, Gorbachev was forced to move towards a free market — the antithesis of Communism — as the Soviet economy reached breaking point and workers began striking because of shortages.

He faced ever-growing pressure from conservatives dismayed at the political and economic

chaos and from a military angry over the effective evaporation of the Warsaw Pact and the threat of a united Germany in NATO.

In the West, the man who once appeared to be a political Houdini began to look embattled.

"He is behind events. The train has left the station and he is running to catch it," said Professor Alexander Dallin of Stanford University, a leading authority on Soviet foreign policy who recently visited Moscow.

"He has unleashed forces he cannot control."

Asked in June 1989 by a West German reporter in Bonn how he would cope, Gorbachev replied: "I do not belong to those who panic." Other Soviet politicians are less certain.

"He (Gorbachev) has six months to a year," rebel Communist Boris Yeltsin predicted during a 1989 visit to the United States. If there was no radical improvement, "there will be a revolution from below."

Since becoming party chief in March 1985, Gorbachev has repeatedly shown political cunning, bouncing back with renewed strength each time opponents of perestroika rose against him.

With his election to the presidency in May 1989, the peasant's son from the northern Caucasus gained a solid legal basis and indirect popular mandate for his powers.

Four months later he purged the ruling politburo of hardliners after sweeping more than 100 old-timers from the policymaking Central Committee.

By becoming executive president, Gorbachev added real teeth to the post, at the same time pushing the party slightly to one side in a bid to block any organised resistance to his reforms.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was born on March 2, 1931, in a northern Caucasus village near Stavropol. He took a law degree at Moscow University before returning to work at Stavropol, a major agricultural region. Party chief in Stavropol at the age of 35, he was summoned to Moscow in 1978 to take charge of agriculture and in 1979 was made a non-voting member of the politburo.

Animals' welfare is man's responsibility

To the Editor:

I WISH to comment on the letter from Mrs. E. Yaghi, (Jordan Times, May 7), "Cruelty." Having not seen the previous one from Patricia Madi, (Jordan Times, May 1), because I was in India (helping working animals and therefore their extremely poor owners), I immediately made a point of acquiring a copy.

Mrs. Madi is quite right when she states, "I believe everybody's basic education should start with respect and care for God's creatures, which cannot talk or ask for help." Man has domesticated many species of animals to the extent where they are now dependant on him, so man must be responsible for their proper care and protection. Throwing stones at animals and hanging them is quite unnecessary apart from being very cruel. Last July several boys stoned an old donkey in front of my window. Why? — because they had ridden it up and down in the heat for so long that it collapsed and they couldn't ride it any more. They then cut its ear off. I took the donkey from them, watched by many people who did nothing.

Mrs. Yaghi says, "we should not let our concern for animals grow out of focus and make them a prime target for our devotion" — Mrs. Madi did not suggest that, she said in fact, "to teach our children to love animals and humans will be the first step towards respect of fellow human beings and our environment for a better and peaceful future." Just because one loves animals it doesn't mean one has to neglect humans. Likewise to ignore or neglect a suffering animal because humans are more important, doesn't benefit humans. One can still be compassionate to both.

I am regularly asked, "why do you help animals when there is so much human suffering in the world? Shouldn't you sort out their problems first?" I have two replies to those questions. One is, that if we had to wait until all human problems were sorted out, the animals would never get a look-in, because as long as humans exist, there will be problems. When one thinks about it, 90 per cent of animal problems are caused directly or indirectly by humans, and many of them need not have occurred. One acquaintance says, "I won't support animal welfare because I think there are more deserving cases." There is nothing to stop anyone supporting all kinds of welfare in some way, however small. Every case is deserving in some form or another. The other reply I give to the questions is actually a question from me — I ask what they are doing to help humans, and more often than not the answer turns out to be, "Well... nothing..." (or very little).

Mrs. Yaghi says, "Jordan is not the only country where cruelty to animals is practised." In fact 90 per cent of it in Jordan is as a result of poverty and ignorance, and only ten per cent is deliberate. (fortunately). However I can think of a country in the Southern Hemisphere where 90 per cent of the cruelty is deliberate, likewise one particular country in Europe. Mrs. Yaghi goes on to say, "We must take care that we are not over-run by an over-population of dogs and cats." That is the fault of humans — neutering is the only answer in any country, and in the long run it is far cheaper and far less trouble than feeding many offspring. I long for the day when a neutering campaign happens here as it has in Tunisia and Greece — but what about the over-population of humans the world over? Isn't this damaging our environment? Shouldn't we all be doing something about that?

I have just returned from India where there is the most appalling over-population and severe poverty on a huge scale. The Brooke Hospital for Animals is beginning to treat the sick and injured working animals of these poor people as it does in Egypt, so that they can eke out a meagre living, which they cannot do unless their animals are sound and fit. In most cases the people are totally dependant on them. Surprisingly there are anti-cruelty laws for animals in India, so we must follow their example and call for a law for animal protection in this country — it won't take anything away from humans, and it wouldn't hurt anyone!

The Jordanian Society for the Protection of Animals (affiliated to SPANA) is planning an education curriculum in schools in collaboration with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, and hopes to include in it the books "Islamic Concern for Animals" and "Animals in Islam," by Al Hafiz B.A. Masri.

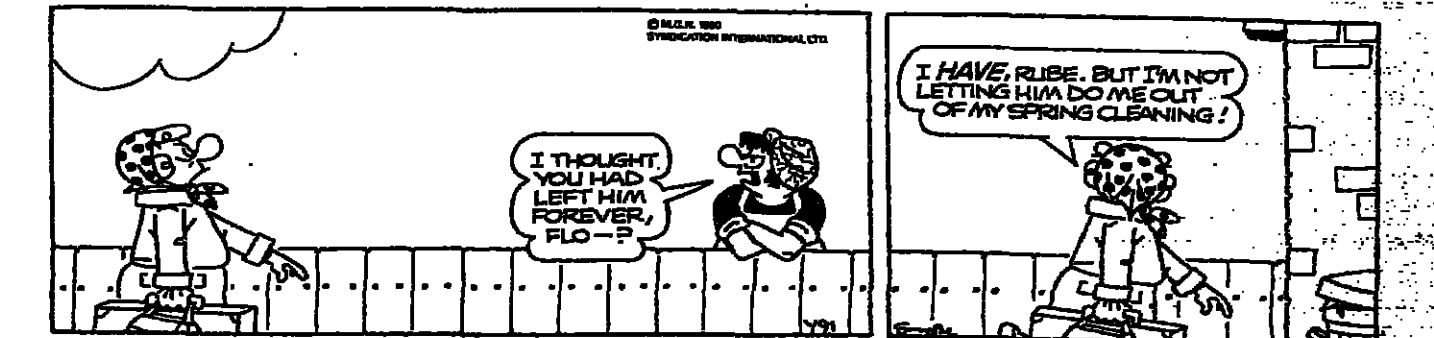
As Mrs. Madi says, it should be everybody's commonsense to protect everything that God gave life to — animals, nature and us. We must remember that animals were his creation as well as humans, and that they are living sentient beings. They are here to stay, and are not going to disappear just because the world is full of human problems, (which are mostly brought about by humans). Therefore spare a thought for them. They have a place on this earth as well.

Miss Chris Larter,
Representative of the Brooke Hospital for Animals in Jordan and India
Representative of JSFA affiliated to SPANA in Jordan.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Randa Berouti sees form and colour in nature

By Nelly Lamm
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An exhibition of watercolours, gouaches and tempera paintings by artist Randa Berouti is now being held at the Jordan Institute in Jabal Amman.

Self-taught, the artist has taken courses in design, but found that individual research and experimentation are more rewarding. "Some teachers might inhibit one's spontaneity and kill one's limitations," she says. "Experimentation should be done on an aesthetic basis and attempts to reach a healthy combination of both essential," she told the Jordan Times.

Her paintings convey the atmosphere, social and political, of Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan without being explicit. The exterior of a building, a doorway or a window sill, for example, tells a tale of the life of the residents. She paints the natural beauty of simple doorways that were familiar to her during her childhood and had beckoned her to a warm welcome when Lebanon and Jerusalem were reachable. In the same way, she depicts the squalor of a camp door with rough texture, cracks in weathered wood, peeling paint, graffiti and dripping paint. Unlike other artists, Berouti uses watercolour which helps her reach soft tones that alleviate the sorrow and puts it in the realm of melancholy. She sometimes uses intense (gouache) colour to add a sense of drama to her painting. Triangular forms and intense colours painted roughly appear to tear at the viewer just as much as an explicit war picture would. Incoming light rays contribute to the anguished. Here form, colour and texture have taken prece-

dence; they are used to convey the message. Yet the too-familiar patterns of wrought iron, in windows and over fences or the hanging of cloths on the line, bring in the human touch to the painting.

In one of her paintings she portrays no more than an old cracked door and shutters, a pattern of rhythmic repetitions and varied tonalities.

A special attempt at realism is found in her paintings of Jerusalem. Here again we find

the artist tantalised at the forms and tones that she discovers as she observes the Holy City. These she conveys with no inhibitions and at times goes on into abstraction and construction, always keeping a good sense of balance.

As for her landscapes, distance, perspective and light effects are beautifully rendered, but the truly worthy part is the angle at which the picture is seen, a bird's eye view of a valley, the shoreline

of Aqaba meeting the mountains at a given point, a large plateau surrounded by mountains in the distance. The variety of handling the composition, and the patterns and volumes that are finally found are witnesses of the keen observation of the artist.

When Berouti portrays interiors, they are an extension of her own world. A large green armchair with wild black stripes sits heavily on a coloured rug, an all-too familiar sight seen in the artist's life. She picks up patterns, rhythms and colours from the rug, upholstery, embroidered pieces, and a painting of Matisse whose curvilinear undulations are picked up by the thick swaying lines in the upholstery.

Here again we feel that simple familiar objects tell the tale of a lifetime and a lifestyle.

In her still-lives, Berouti again picks up rhythms and abstract patterns from the natural textures around her, straw, crocheted lace, etc. She conveys the contrast between the deep colour of painted wood as in the base of a lampshade and the transparency of glass. She fills in the hand of a paintbrush and lets the bristles go free. This still-life in particular shows sprightly rhythms that are almost frivolous in nature. Although they might seem to be scattered and dispersed in their alternation of dark and light, of subtle and intense, they prance around within a given space, framed on one side by the solid wooden base and on the other by a converging shape, in middle tone, locking the whole composition together.

In many of her compositions, she chooses asymmetry posing a true structural problem. She then proceeds to solve it. It is almost a game in which she hopes to always be a

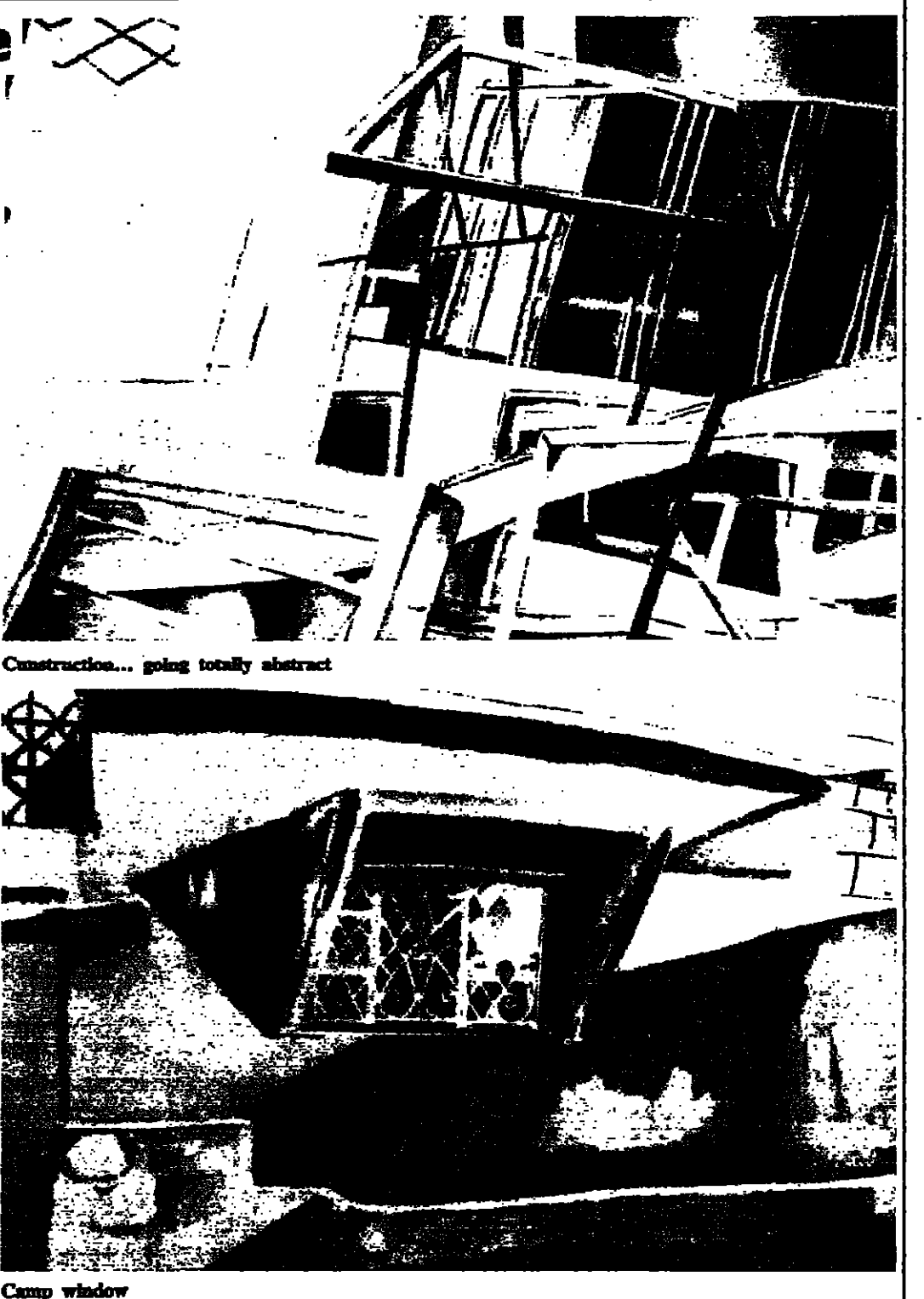
winner "An artist is born with good intuition," she believes. Hers is truly stunning, considering the difficulties she starts with and the way she solves them.

A vase with Chinese patterns has curving foliage coming out of it, this forms great imbalance as it swells out to the left, another branch rendered in softer tones repeats the same movement pulling the composition more to the right while a cruciform formation of leaves in front moves the point of emphasis off-center and to right. This and a little protruding tuft on the side pull the whole composition together. The general form lies before a striped background where the stripes graduate from a deep yellow at the bottom to lighter tints at the top. It stabilises the composition even further. The game is won!

Fantasy plays an intrinsic part in a sketchy painting of an ice skater. Vivacious rhythms in earth colours represent the crowd. The skater, and the rink are all blue on a white ground. One yellow brushstroke at the top holds the composition together and alleviates the contrast of colour. She accentuates the swaying movement of the dancer by drawing a curvilinear line beside her.

Berouti finally paints a portrait of herself. She captures the striking depth of her dark eyes... a silent statement! The sketchy outline of the portrait comes forward followed by vertical areas of colour. An informal rendering that is very expressive.

In all this variety one sees one common factor, the avid eyes of the artist looking furiously for underlying form, for vivacious rhythms and for all possibilities of colour tonalities.



Camp window

Palestinian dies in Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

A Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official was quoted Friday as saying Palestinians fighting the occupation might abandon the organization's ban on firearms if Israel continued killing Arabs.

Mohammed Sbeih, secretary of the Palestine National Council, told the Arab Jerusalem weekly Al-Nadwa: "There is a decision by the PLO prohibiting the use of firearms at this stage, provided this decision is met by a civilized response."

But if the (Israeli) practices continue... there will be a re-assessment of the decision."

Nationalist leaders in the Gaza Strip Friday joined West Bank activists on a hunger strike protesting at the week's killings and seeking U.N. help. Palestinian activists from the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem have been fasting since Sunday.

There have been only a handful of armed attacks on Israelis, but there has been an increase in calls to use guns since last Sunday's Rishon LeZion mass murder.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the

second largest faction in the PLO called in a leaflet distributed after the killings for the use of weapons against Israelis.

"Every passing day proves that this criminal enemy fortifies his existence by the use of force and aggression and thus will not be forced to withdraw from our land except by revolutionary violence, foremost of which is armed struggle," the PFLP said.

The Palestinian leaders staging the hunger strike have said their fast was intended to underline the non-violent nature of the intifada.

Sbeih said the PLO was not demanding an international peacekeeping force in the occupied territories but only U.N. observers to protect Palestinians.

He condemned the exploitation of Palestinian anger over the mass killing to incite violent disturbances in Jordan.

Israel says a U.N. observer force in the occupied territories is unnecessary because hundreds of foreign journalists, relief staffers and human rights officials are already monitoring Israeli soldiers.

But foreign journalists are routinely barred from trouble spots, and Palestinians say the aid workers are powerless to protect

them against Israeli army excesses.

During this week's upsurge in violence, the army placed most of the occupied territories under curfew. Journalists were not allowed to enter without a military escort and were not allowed to roam freely.

Throughout the uprising, trouble spots have frequently been declared closed military areas or placed under curfew, barring the media from observing first hand.

Two foreign aid organisations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) have formed informal monitoring teams since the start of the uprising.

The 42 teams, 30 from UNRWA and 12 from the Red Cross, each consist of an international staffer and a Palestinian assistant, who patrol assigned districts in white radio cars.

Headquarters dispatches the teams to hot spots whenever clashes erupt between Palestinian stone throwers and the army.

"They see what they can do to cool tempers, defuse the situation and assist the wounded," said Bill Lee, a spokesman of UNRWA, which runs schools and clinics in refugee camps.

"We are the international presence, the eyes and ears of the international community," Lee said, adding that the teams' weekly reports were forwarded to U.N. headquarters in New York.

Lee said UNRWA did not have a mandate to intervene in clashes, but another U.N. official said "observers" sometimes tried to stop troops from beating protesters or firing teargas recklessly.

"We try to maintain contact with local army commanders, but they certainly don't recognise us as having a bearing on what they do," added the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

President George Bush said Thursday he was troubled by increasing violence between Israelis and Palestinians and said he was trying to encourage peace talks.

"I have called on both sides for restraint," Bush told a news conference. "I have called on the Israeli forces to show constraint. I am worried about it. I am troubled by the loss of human life in this area... I think particularly of children in this situation."

The president said the answer is peace talks, "and I will do everything I can to get the talks for peace going."

Israel turning away from political solution

(Continued from page 1)

where the role of the United States is increasing and where its influence is becoming greater," Qasem said. "This resulted in a decrease in political and military support provided for the Arabs by the Soviet Union, thus putting us in front of a new reality, warranting self-reliance and formulating a position capable of bridging the political gap resulting from the Soviet vacuum."

Qasem said Soviet Jewish im-

migration to Israel was "harmful to Arab national security in addition to being a violation of the rights of the Palestinian people and international laws and norms."

"Despite these harmful and damaging effects Jewish immigration to Palestine was a source of joy and happiness to the Israelis because it nourishes the Israeli extremism and contributes to boosting the Israeli economy."

Qasem noted that one of the dimensions of immigration was

that "the Israeli rightists are now gaining the internal battle." He warned that the Israeli rightists "will divert attention from peace-making into accommodating more Jewish immigrants and putting immigration on top of Israel's priorities."

Qasem said "the coordinated hostile campaign against Iraq reveals that the instigator and the prime beneficiary of such campaigns is Israel."

"Destroying Arab European relations, obstructing prospects

of Arab-American relations based on mutual respect and interests and precluding the development of a new American position towards the Palestine question figure high among the benefits which Israel sought to achieve from such campaign against Iraq," he said.

Qasem called on the Arab Nation to capitalise on this campaign to accelerate its development pace in all fields and noted in this regard to decisions adopted at the Amman summit.

Police chief says investigations under way

(Continued from page 1)

general, countering reported accusations that police used force selectively against demonstrators during the past week.

"Whoever commits a crime, such as the attacks against banks and breweries or whatever, will be brought to justice, no matter who he is and why he did it," he stressed.

But the police chief said that police "will not rely on hearsay" and will make arrests and press charges only after "we have hard facts."

He pointed out that during last week's widespread demonstrations and acts of protests against

Israeli massacres of Palestinians, the department's "first priority was to establish calm, but that whoever committed a crime will be investigated."

In Tuesday evening's mob attacks, two beer breweries, one distillery in the Zarqa area and a few restaurants and banks in Russeifa were hit by a group of rioters who broke away from a larger demonstration which originated in Russeifa, according to an eyewitness account.

The original demonstration passed peacefully by the breweries and Eagle (Al-Nisr) Distillery which lie close to one another, according to this account. But later, and apparent-

ly after demonstrators noticed the absence of police patrols in the area, a smaller group of people returned in cars and pick-ups and started attacking the liquor facilities with their ammunition of stones, metal bars and fire bombs. They inflicted "heavy" damage on the two breweries and some damage in the bank distillery before police protection arrived and they had to flee the scene.

Owners of the distillery, noting that three other factories manu-

facturing Co2 gas, dry ice and medical alcohol are situated nearby, said there was a danger of much bigger damage and injuries if the situation had not come

under control.

The JD 6 million compound housing the distillery and the three factories, as well as a perfumes factory and a plant for making snacks, are all owned and operated by the Haddad family. The two breweries, Amstel and Henninger, as well as the Haddad factories have stopped operations since the riots and are waiting for damage assessment and government reassurances before getting back into production again, their owners said Friday.

Security sources said that police interfered around 10 o'clock on Tuesday and were able to deter the rioters by using tear-gas.

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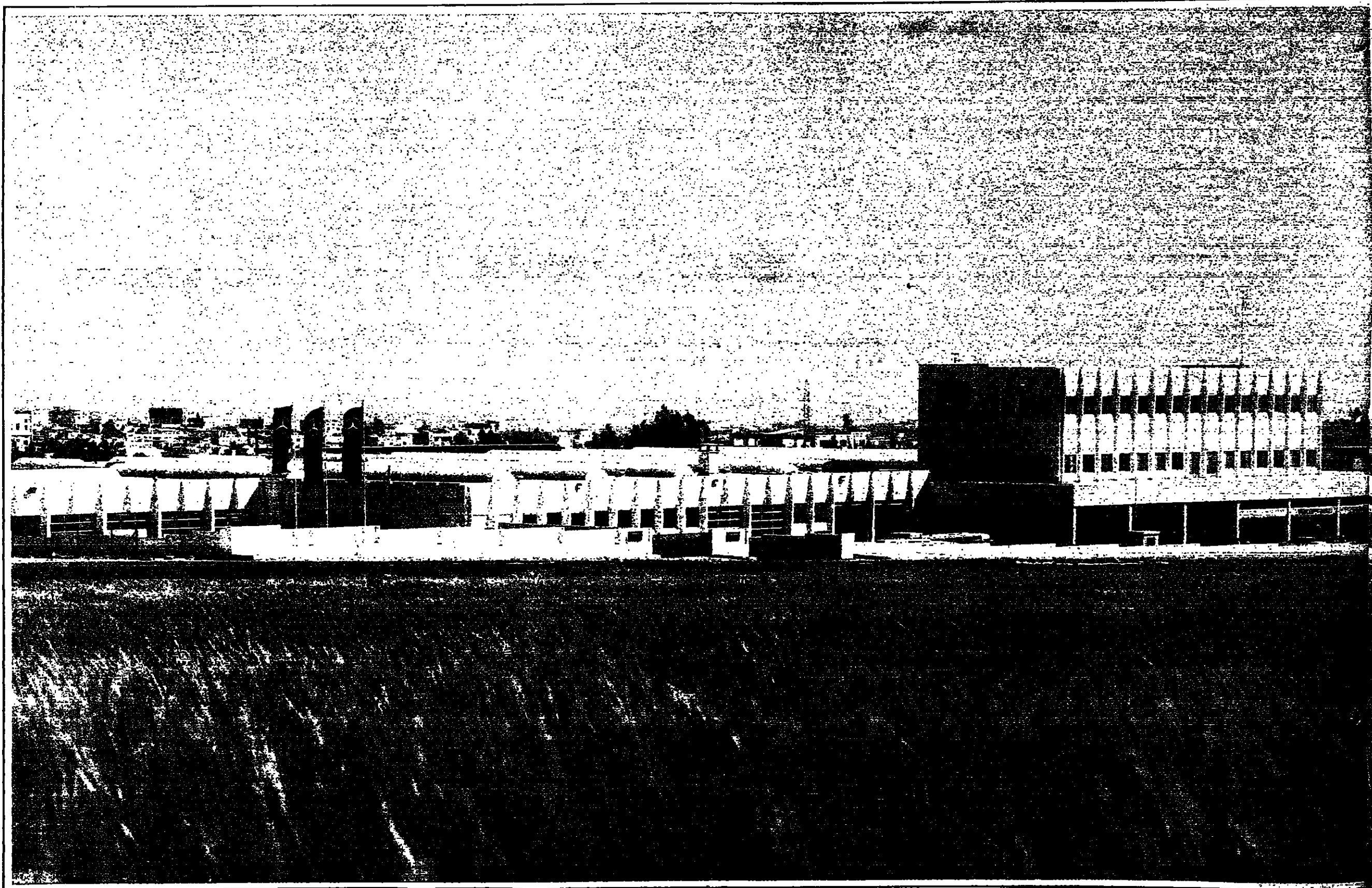
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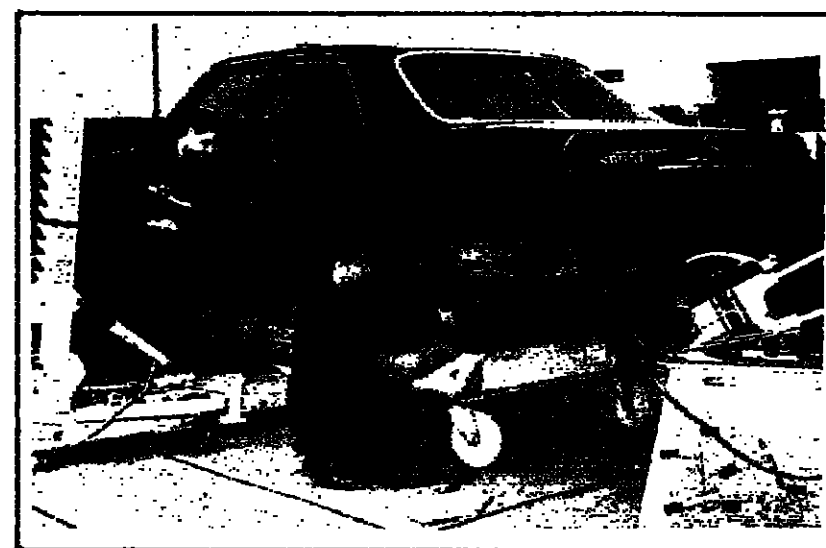
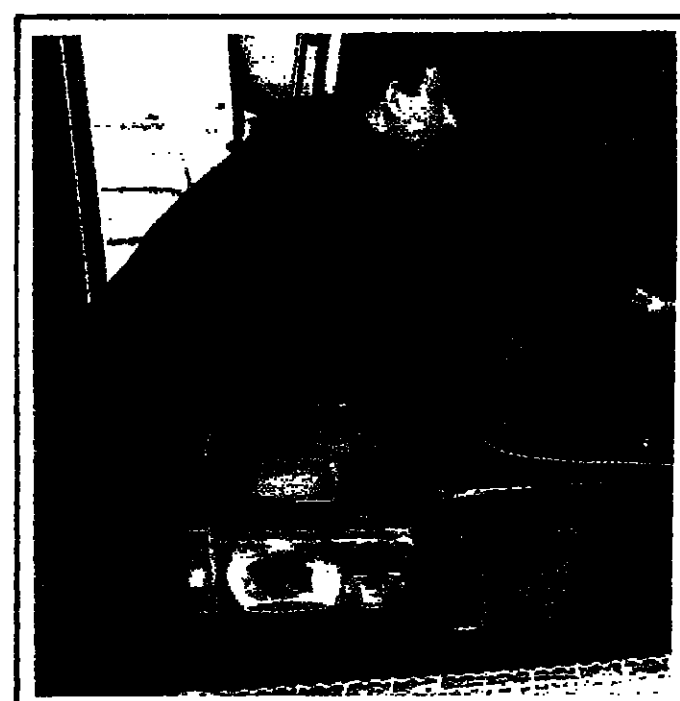
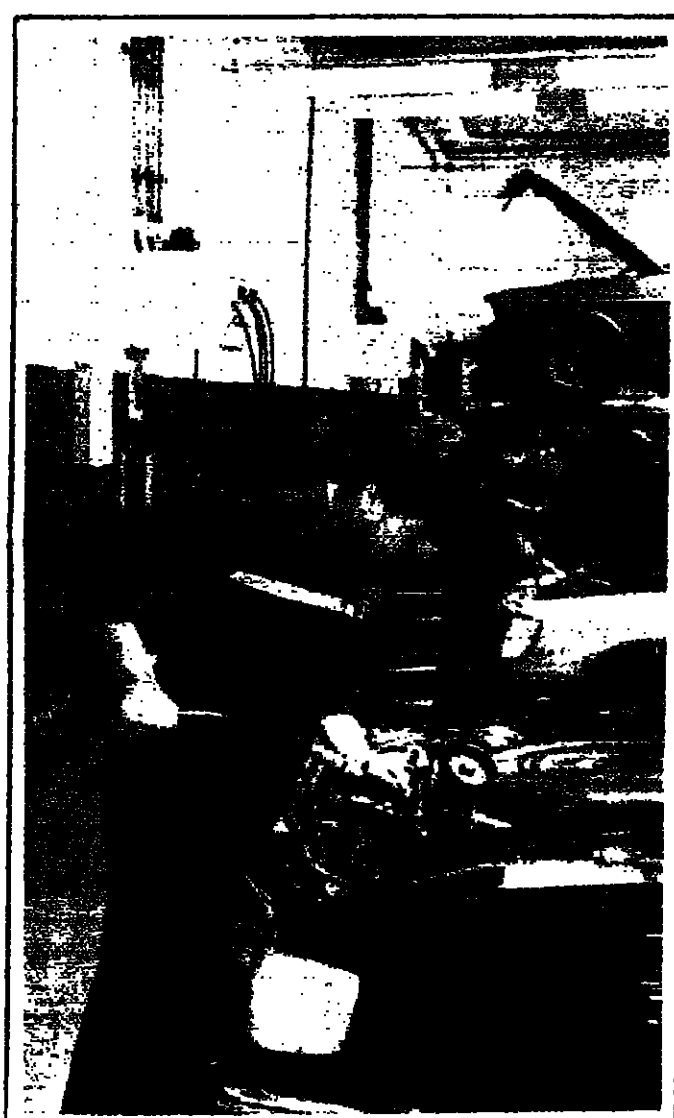
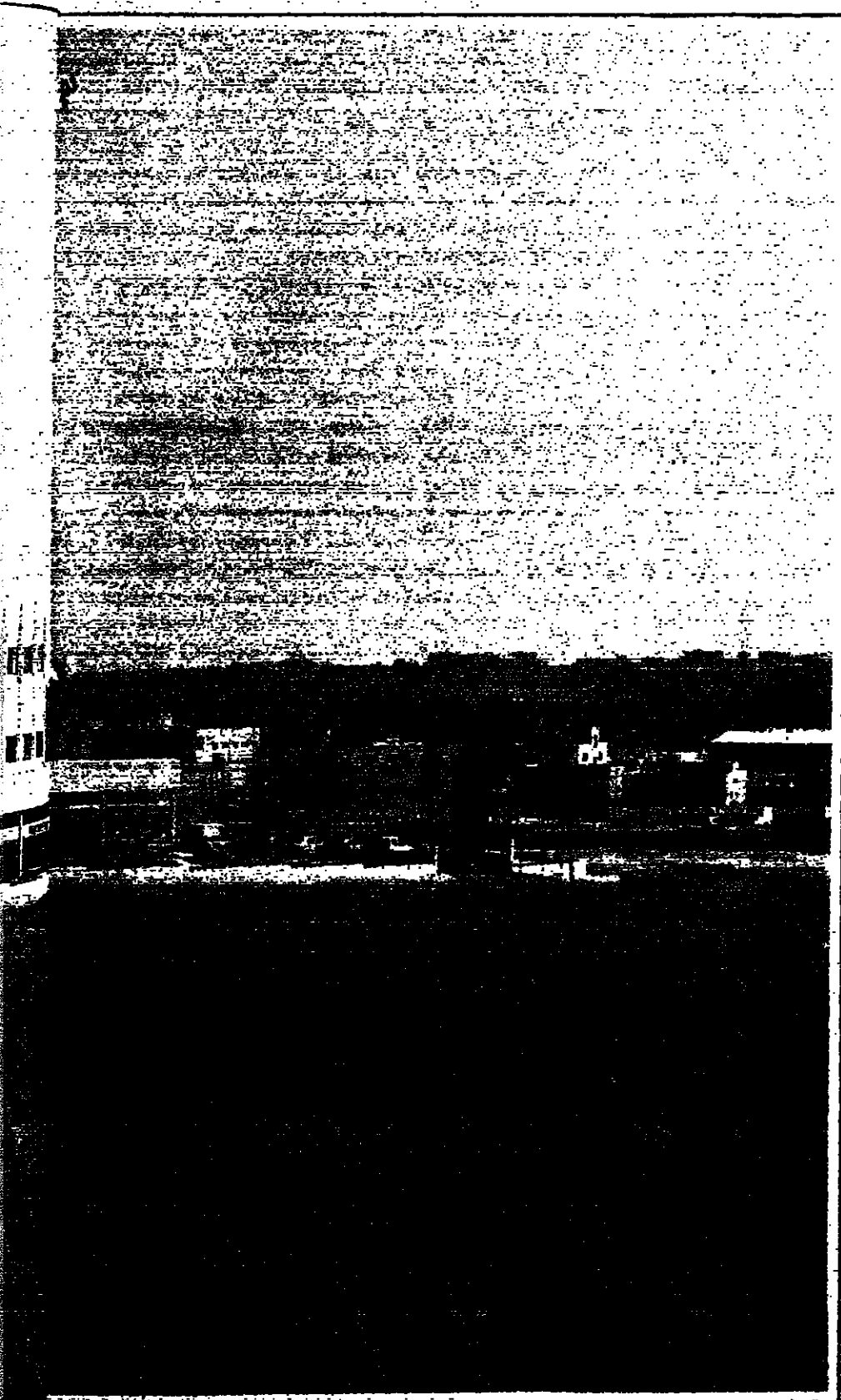
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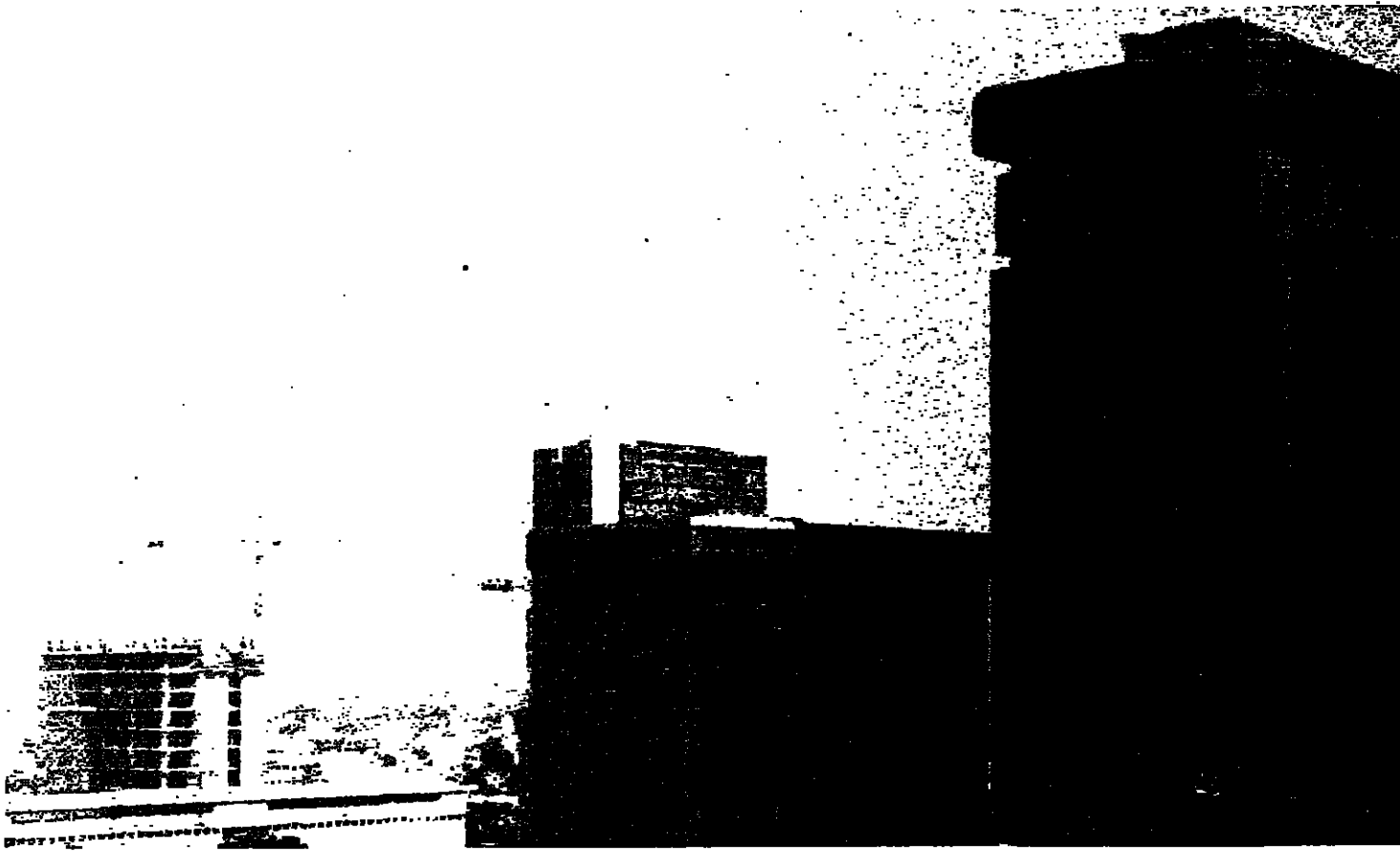


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The skyscrapers mushrooming in Indonesia's capital are a symbol of the fast-paced modernisation of the economy (WNL).

Indonesia well placed in development race

By Jon Miller

JAKARTA (WNL) — When Jim Castle came to Jakarta from the United States 13 years ago, the city of about 10 million was everything that everyone had said it would be: dirty, crowded, noisy, squalid and chaotic.

"Now all you have to do is look out the window, at the roads, the new buildings," Castle says. "It's night and day. The difference is incredible. There's no other word for it."

Castle, who heads the consulting firm Business Advisory Indonesia, is in some ways a professional cheerleader for this vast, equatorial island nation. But it's hard to find anyone in the business community who is not impressed with the near-total change in Indonesia's investment climate during the past seven years.

That change, which can be traced to a series of deregulation moves beginning in 1983, has helped Indonesia establish itself firmly alongside Thailand in Asia's next wave of newly industrialised countries (NICs). The fifth most populous nation in the world, Indonesia has parlayed the stability of 24 years of relatively benign socialist military rule into an increasingly diversified, expanding economy. Now foreign investors, who had waited for decades for a chance to gain a foothold here, are racing to take advantage of Indonesia's labour, markets and natural resources.

To Castle, who was recently elected president of Jakarta's American Chamber of Commerce, the favourable business climate is a reflection of sound, rational planning. But he and other business analysts attribute the impetus for that planning to a potentially devastating drop in world oil prices in the early mid-1980s.

Throughout the 1970s Indonesia was dependent on oil revenues for the bulk of its foreign exchange. As oil prices rose the economy grew. But beset by corruption and mismanagement in its state-owned petroleum industry, the government was forced to borrow heavily to finance its ambitious development plans. When the price of oil plunged from U.S. \$34 a barrel in 1981 to

less than U.S. \$10 a barrel two years later, Indonesia, heavily in debt and with few sources of foreign capital, teetered on the edge of economic collapse.

The drop in oil prices was compounded when the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) substantially cut Indonesia's production quotas. The nation's economic planners, faced with disaster, were forced to look for new ways to attract foreign money. "It was quite an adjustment to make, and they realised that the only way they'd be able to do it would be to switch from an import-substitution, heavily protected economy to an export-oriented, minimally protected economy," Castle explains. "And that's exactly what they did."

Beginning with a tax-reform package in 1983, the government instituted a succession of basic reforms. "They reduced licensing requirements, reduced tariffs, eliminated trade monopolies or cartels that they had set up in the domestic market," Castle says. "Then finally they opened up a very wide range of manufacturing and some service industries to foreign investment."

"All this is marked contrast to before, when there were high duties, heavily protected local industries and an investment board that saw itself as a policeman whose job it was to limit, control and discipline people. They changed that to an investment board whose goal was motion and whose achievements were measured by how much was invested in Indonesia."

Quick results

Results followed quickly. Total foreign investment (excluding investment in the banking and oil sectors) more than tripled between 1982 and 1988. But since late 1988, when restrictions on foreign banks were softened, Jakarta has seen a flood of new investments in this sector. Eleven foreign banks are now operating, and several others are planning to set up business in the near future. Everywhere one looks in this sprawling city, there are signs of the country's new internationalism.

Not that the transformation has

been without its idiosyncrasies: personal influence, traditionally a pillar of the Indonesian economy, is still valuable currency here. President Suharto's primary political liability — the burgeoning fortunes of his wife and children — is seen by some as a major liability for the economy as well.

According to Irfan Nasution, an analyst with the private think-tank Business International, the highly personalised nature of Indonesia's business world can have a stultifying effect on competition. "The big groups here get big not because of their management strength or skills but because of their relationship with government," he claims.

Nasution adds that foreigners who wish to do business in Indonesia, especially in the public sector, know they will have a much easier time breaking in if they can hook up with an "inner-circle" businessman or a member of Suharto's family. He says government agencies often act as intermediaries for foreigners looking for influential partners. "If you have a contact with the royal family, it can take one day to set up all the licenses and get all the approvals," Nasution notes.

Castle acknowledges that there are irregularities, particularly in bidding for government contracts. But, he says, most foreign firms simply avoid doing business with the government, and he discounts the importance of bribery or influence-buying in the private sector. Nasution, however, cites situations where influential people are permitted to break, or at least evade, regulations designed to encourage competition.

One example of influence-peddling caused a small uproar early this year. A group of Indonesian businessmen planned to open a department store in a new building on a prime commercial street in Jakarta. The land on which the building sits is owned by one of the president's sons. Government regulations forbid foreign investment in Indonesia's poorly developed retail sector, but news leaked out that the Indonesian businessmen were teaming up with the Japanese retail giant, Sogo, to establish a

The Indonesian group assured critics that the store was to be 100 per cent locally owned and that Sogo had merely signed a technical assistance agreement that involved no money. No mention was made of royalties, management fees, licensing fees or other financial arrangements, Nasution says.

In early March, when the name Sogo appeared on a large neon sign on the building, many in the business community were non-plussed. The owners of the store explained that the name was only a symbol, not the name of the Japanese company. On the strength of that clarification the controversy died down and the bright red Sogo trademark remained. But, observers say, the new store looks exactly like a Japanese Sogo retail outlet.

Castle argues that the truth about such controversies is usually "a lot less sinister" than the stories that constantly circulate in Jakarta's business community. "Indonesia's commercial world really runs like the commercial world pretty much anywhere," he says.

Castle admits that the economy is not yet fully developed, but he points to signs that the Indonesian government is serious about modernising it. One example is the newly established stock exchange, a small, fairly sluggish investment arena that is still closed to foreigners. "A foreign investor who comes here is going to say, 'What does the stock market mean to me?' Well, the correct answer is nothing — right now," Castle says. "But it's one more sign that Indonesia is catching up and trying to keep up with its neighbours and the rest of the world."

Couple the government's systematic drive to modernise with a huge population, political stability, a rapidly improving infrastructure and abundant natural resources and you have, says Castle, an almost foolproof recipe for success: "There are very few countries that could say, 'Today we're going to do this, and seven or eight years down the road still be grinding out that same policy, and pretty much accomplishing the major things that it wanted to accomplish.'"

Iran faces population dilemma

By F.S. Ghorbani

TEHRAN — Some government sources in Iran are predicting serious food shortages in the future if population growth is not checked. Thus there is mounting propaganda from the government for reducing the rate of growth, and there is a general realisation that the available facilities and resources cannot support present numbers.

Iran's population growth is one of the highest in the world. Official Iranian figures put it at 3.2 per cent a year, but some experts believe it is even higher. One analyst, using provisional estimates from the 1986 census, thinks growth is at least 3.7 per cent a year, with the population having nearly doubled between 1966 and 1986, from 25.8 million to 49.9 million.

The climate has never been so favourable for a population policy and efforts to reduce the birth rate to a more manageable level. But in spite of this no significant and lasting reduction is likely to take place yet.

Educated women have for a long time had small families and they have become even smaller since the revolution because parents consider the educational climate unsatisfactory. However, the proportion of women who are highly educated is small, and for the great majority of women there are reasons to have more children rather than fewer.

First, until recently the government was encouraging families to have many children — to replace

the "martyrs" who died in the fighting and to make the Islamic Republic a great country. A sudden reversal of this policy could not easily be understood by the majority of the people. Couples with large families have been receiving financial incentives like food stamps and priority in acquiring land and houses. Besides, the loss of young sons or close relatives is still fresh in the memory of many women and encourages older women to want more children.

Second, in marriage, women have few rights and little security. The minimum age of marriage, which was 18 before the Islamic revolution, has gradually come down to nine, with no objection from government officials. A shortage in the number of eligible and employed young men, changes to the marriage law, plus the wide spread of wealth and influence, have permitted a growth in polygamy. The wives of polygamous men, who are usually younger than their husbands, are often forced to compete with each other for his attention, and to inherit his possessions. One way of trying to do this is by having more children. So despite the shortfall in young men, there are nevertheless no fewer children being born.

Some families have seen their income reduced severely and this has led them to want their daughters married at the first opportunity. Mothers are advising their daughters to have children as soon as possible to secure their

marriages and teenage pregnancies have become more common.

Education for girls is limited and inferior at all levels. Some branches of education are closed to women. Unemployment, high for everyone, is especially bad for women. Some women have been removed from their jobs because their appearance or behaviour did not fit official Islamic standards.

Many of the laws that cover contraception are vague, and in any case access to contraception is limited. Permanent methods can be used only with permission from a special court, and abortions are illegal. Centres offering temporary methods are few, and only in cities, and make no attempt to attract women to them.

Several steps could be taken to reduce the birth rate without much expense, but it is unlikely that the government will take any of them. The first step should be to raise the marriage age back to its previous level (18 for girls and 22 for boys). Women's rights in marriage need to be protected and divorce conducted by non-religious courts. Discrimination against girls in education should be abolished.

People should be taught more about the benefits of small families and ways to achieve them. A mass media campaign, with information from unbiased experts, needs to be directed both at women of reproductive age and their influential in-laws.

Employment prospects for

women should be improved. At present it is not acceptable for poorer, less-educated women to work outside the house with men. But there could be opportunities for women to work together in areas traditionally their domain, such as dressmaking, cooking, and manufacturing and selling household goods. Such projects give women some security as well as giving them confidence and status and widening their horizons beyond marriage, child care and housekeeping. Security is important, especially for widows without financial support.

One way of encouraging smaller families would be to introduce measures to safeguard the well-being of children — proper nutrition, regular health care, and priority in education. Young couples should be discouraged from having children too soon and from having more than two. Family planning and child health centres could be set up, with mobile clinics to reach the villages.

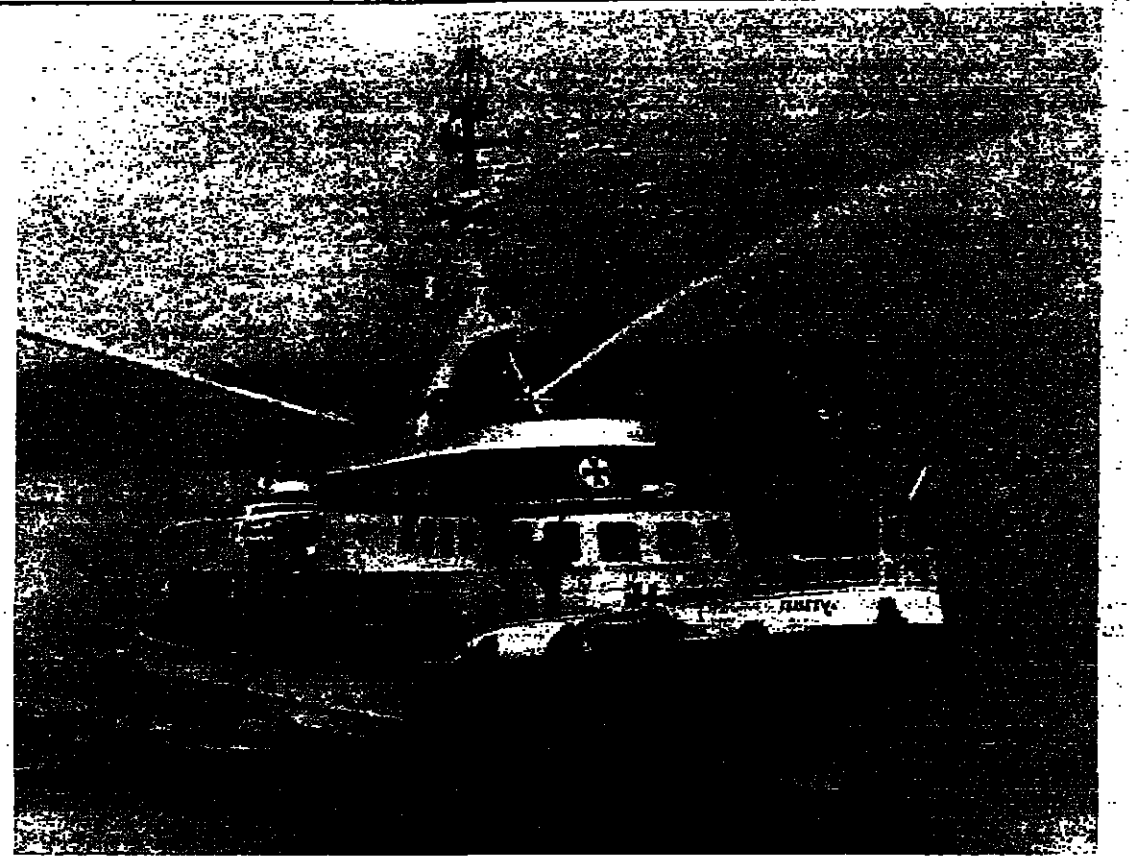
In 1984 the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) resumed assistance to Iran and last year completed an assessment of needs there. As a result, a two-year, \$4 million programme will be put in place to provide maternal and child health and family planning services. Other international and non-governmental organisations will also need to be involved if the government resolves to try to reverse the present trend. — IPPF/People Features.

Shipwreck society celebrates anniversary

By Hilde Simsek

BREMEN (DaD) — Headlines such as "ships in distress due to storm," or "Rescued after 30 hours at sea" occurred yet again last winter as a result of emergencies in the North Sea and Baltic. They draw our attention to the Bremen-based German Society for Rescuing Shipwrecks, which celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. Citizens with determination and drive founded the society in 1865 and it today enjoys a high reputation in shipping circles worldwide for its crews, ready to go into action 24 hours a day, and its high-performance rescue craft. Ernst Meier-Hedde, chairman of the society, said: "Every SOS or Mayday call is for us not only a despairing cry for help but also a fresh challenge to battle with the elements."

Excluding technical crew members, the society has 220 voluntary rescuers manning the society's craft. They put to sea 2,200 times last year and rescued almost 2,000 people from distress or from situations that threatened their lives. They transported about 600 sick or injured people from ships or islands to the main land and saved 72 vessels from total loss. Furthermore the society's Rescue Coordination Centre in Bremen, which monitors all calls for help, took part in aiding about 130 cases of distress outside its own area of responsibility, which covers Federal Republic's territorial waters in the North Sea and the



The German Society for the Rescue of Shipwrecks has at its disposal rescue vessels such as this modern rescue launch, which was put into service in 1988. It is 27.5 metres long. This year the

society, founded in Bremen, celebrates its 125th anniversary. Last year alone the society's volunteers rescued about 2,000 people in distress in 2,200 operations (Photo: DaD/DPA)

Baltic. Since the society was founded more than 50,000 people in distress from all over the world have been rescued, and 42 of the society's volunteers have lost their lives.

In 1865 the society operated simple rowing boats and set up two distress stations. Over the years its rescue work has developed and now the society operates 36 craft — from lifeboats seven metres in length to 44-metre-long launches. This fleet of rescue vessels is to be expanded and modernised. On May 23, the date of the society's 125th anniversary, a new

23-metre rescue launch was named and put into service. The society will offer vessels which have been decommissioned to friendly rescue services in other countries, to strengthen their search and rescue facilities or so that they can be used to train young men in sea rescue. Recently the rescue launch "Adolph Bernbold" was sold to Finland for this purpose.

The German society works closely with rescue services in Denmark, Sweden, Britain and the Netherlands. It is financed almost entirely by contributions

and donations from its 180,000 members. Last year the society's funds of DM 18.5 million were almost entirely used for sea rescue services and related facilities on land such as distress stations, radio stations and ship maintenance; only ten per cent of income was used for public relations and administration. Ernst Meier-Hedde said: "Even in difficult times the public has shown its trust in the society, and has contributed in this way to our being able to rescue thousands of people from all over from distress and danger."

Normalcy prevails as independence marked

(Continued from page 1)

soul for you, oh Hussein," was chanted repeatedly by the demonstrators, according to eyewitness accounts.

In his first comment on last week's violent incidents involving security forces and demonstrators, the King said Thursday the situation was handled with great restraint by police and the events themselves should be seen as part of "the democratic life we are experiencing now and of which we are proud."

"Our forces acted with great restraint in the face of what to all Arabs was a terrible provocation and a terrible crime," the King said referring to Sunday's massacre of Palestinians.

Addressing a short press conference held at the Prime Ministry after a reception hosted by Prime Minister Mudar Badran to mark Independence Day, the King announced that he would be presenting a Jordanian plan to the emergency Arab summit to be held in Baghdad Monday.

"I will present and direct, clear and precise steps to the summit and I hope I will have the honour of presenting it on behalf of the Jordanian people," the King said.

The King also expressed hope that the resolutions of the summit would be "different from earlier summits."

"The changes which are taking place in the world and the dangerous threats facing every one places a large responsibility on Arab leaders to unite in a form different than before to be able to face these difficulties and arrive at the right timing for this nation in this day and tomorrow," the King said.

King Hussein pointed out that although Jordan "has passed difficult and trying times, Jordan today is a source of pride, as it has always been and probably more than any time before."

He added that he hoped that anything that takes place in Jordan is beneficial to Jordan. "I believe that what happened is a reaction to a crime that shocked us all," he said.

He thanked the overwhelming majority of Jordanians "who stood together to control the incidents and contributed to the (restoration) of stability and calm."

The King also pointed out that the awareness of Jordanians would not allow any party to exploit the series of demonstrations which broke out in different parts of the Kingdom in condemnation of the Israeli massacre.

The King was responding to a question on whether he believed there were any organised elements behind the violent features of some of the demonstrations.

"There might have been some

organised people responsible for excesses which took place which were in contradiction to what we felt in our hearts and minds and everything that is this country," the King said.

"I believe that the future carries a clear vision that will not be limited to the minority but to the majority of citizens in this country," the King said.

Asked whether he felt that police had used excessive force in dealing with the demonstrators, the King said: "This the image they would like to portray on the other side (of the river) but this is not true at all."

In most of the trouble spots where violence erupted Monday and Tuesday, security forces kept a discreet vigil but no violent incidents were reported Friday.

The central theme of mosque sermons at Friday prayers were condemnation of Israeli practices against the Palestinians in the occupied territories and calls on the people in Jordan to remain calm and refrain from resorting to violent protests.

In Hittin refugee camp north-

east of Amman, residents buried 21-year-old Mohammad Abbas after a mass funeral attended by over 3,000 people. Abbas was shot dead Tuesday and official statements said the firearm used in the shooting was not of any of the types used by security forces.

The funeral was attended by several members of the Lower House of Parliament, including Al Hawandeh, Yacoub Qarash, Mohammad Al Haj and Mansour Murad.

The deceased's father, receiving condolences, said he was "proud that my son gave his life as a martyr." He said he did not blame security forces for his son's death, "though I would have been prouder if he had given his life in Palestine, where the actual battle for liberation is."

Abbas was the second fatality in Hittin, where demonstrators fought pitched battles with security forces for most of Tuesday and Wednesday. Except for the emotional funeral Friday, total calm prevailed in the area in what appeared to be the result of a concerted effort by political activists and Parliament members, campers and security forces. One resident said committees were being formed to ensure that no repetition of the violent events occurred.

The first fatality in the camp was laid to rest Wednesday. According to sources, four people were killed and dozens injured in Monday's and Tuesday's clashes with security forces in the refugee camps of Beqaa, Al Wihdat and Irbid as well as the towns of Zarqa. Many arrests were made of people who resorted to violence, but all of them were released by Wednesday afternoon, according to police sources. It was not known Friday whether any new arrest was made as police launched investigations into the various events to determine whether any specific group or individual was responsible for the violence.

Arafat calls for 'emergency force'

(Continued from page 1)

civilian or military force be proposed. An Arab League official said the council would have to work out its make-up.

"It does not mean force or observers as different categories, it would be a new blend of both types," Clovis Makoud, the Arab League's U.N. representative, told reporters after Arafat's address to a packed meeting.

Wearing Khakhi fatigues and his usual chequered headress, the PLO leader also urged the council to impose sanctions on Israel in light of the success of similar action against South Africa in bringing about a change there.

"The situation now requires urgent action," he told the council, meeting for the first time in Geneva because of doubts on whether the United States would grant him a visa to come to New York.

Arafat also asked Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar designate a full-time envoy to

work on bringing peace to the region or that Perez de Cuellar himself undertake the job.

He stressed on several occasions that despite the current bloodshed the PLO stood by its peace initiative of 1988 when it recognised Israel's right to exist for the first time.

Israel has become increasingly isolated and even its main ally, the United States, says it is willing to discuss sending an observer team to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip — an idea Israel rejects.

The PLO Chairman asked for a resolution to provide "international protection to the Palestinian people... in the occupied territories under the flag of the United Nations and by means of international emergency forces."

The United States, which as a permanent member can veto Security Council measures, says it envisages a short visit — perhaps a fact-finding tour — rather than using the Jerusalem-based U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation or setting up a similar permanent mission.

Washington says its main goal

is to restart peace moves towards Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, so far rejected by Israel.

Arafat also called on the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, Soviet Union, Britain, France and China — to meet immediately to prepare for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The Israeli government dismisses last Sunday's murder, which prompted Arab delegates to ask for the council session, as the act of a "deranged" individual. But Arafat said it was the result of the insanity of the whole Israeli system.

"It was not the insanity of an individual or his derangement, as the Israeli officials have claimed, that was responsible for the massacre of black Sunday."

"The primary responsibility falls on the insanity and derangement of the whole system, a system which is haunted by mythical ghosts, by illusions of defunct racial superiority and by the obsession with expansion and invasion..." Arafat said.

In Washington, Secretary of

State James Baker Friday reiterated U.S. opposition to permanent stationing of U.S. observers in the occupied territories.

But he said "the idea of the secretary-general sending one of his top aides to take a look at the situation and return is something quite different."

A U.S. official said his delegation does not plan to address the Geneva session.

The council's session was shifted from New York to Geneva to allow Arafat to speak. Arab delegations wanted to avoid a showdown with the United States, which has barred the PLO chief from entry in the past.

No decisions are foreseen at the Geneva meeting, which is expected to end Saturday at the latest, diplomats say.

The session is likely to resume Tuesday in New York, U.N. spokesman Francois Cluliani said.

French Ambassador Pierre-Louis Blanc said the council should envisage sending a U.N. fact-finding mission to the occupied territories.

Rival Shi'ite militias fight on in west Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival Shi'ite militias, battling with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in the streets of west Beirut Friday, killed two people and wounded 25, police reported.

Scores of children were trapped in several schools in the embattled district around the city's war-torn sports stadium during the three-hour battle between the Syrian-backed Amal militia and the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God), police said.

The fighting flared as Christian spiritual leaders met in Beirut, north of the capital, and called for the consolidation of a ceasefire to end three months of savage fighting between rebel General Michel Aoun and the Lebanese Forces militia.

The two forces have been battling for control of the Christian enclave north of the capital since Jan. 30 in the fiercest phase of fighting between rival Christians since the civil war erupted in 1975.

The leaders received a videotaped message from Pope John Paul II saying the Lebanese "in the name of the love I feel for you... to seek dialogue, overcome your fears and always love your Lebanon."

Friday's Shi'ite bloodletting erupted after Hizbollah accused Amal of kidnapping four of its members in Shi'ite districts of west Beirut.

Police said two Amal fighters were wounded by Hizbollah gunmen near the city's sports stadium around 9:30 a.m. (0630 GMT).

By police count, at least 1,046 people have been killed and 3,117 wounded in a 24-year-old power struggle between the rival militias for supremacy of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shi'ites, the country's largest sect.

Amal and Hizbollah gunmen took to the streets and clashed around the sports stadium on the southern edge of Beirut.

The fighting ended soon after noon (2000 GMT) when Syrian soldiers intervened, police said.

The Syrian army, which has some 40,000 troops in Lebanon

under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate, have charge of security in western sector of Beirut.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing regulations, said the two factions went on "maximum alert" in other western areas of Beirut.

He noted tension was particularly high in the seaside fishermen's neighbourhood which commands the coastal highway that links Beirut with the south.

Radio stations interrupted programmes to broadcast appeals for a ceasefire to allow parents to evacuate the children trapped in a dozen schools.

"Please, please, let them stop fighting. Let them have mercy on these innocent children," an unidentified woman pleaded on the Voice of the Nation radio.

Thousands of civilians, fearing the violence between the warring militias will spread, collected their children from schools in other areas.

The fighting was the second intra-Shi'ite confrontation in less than a week. Three people were killed and 25 wounded in 11 hours of Amal-Hizbollah fighting in several densely populated districts May 20.

The Christian spiritual leaders met for 24 hours at Beirut, Lebanon's seat of Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir. The Maronites are the dominant Christian sect and are affiliated to the Vatican.

The clergymen issued a statement calling on Aoun and Samir Geagea, the Lebanese Forces chief, to cement a ceasefire called 10 days ago.

The Pope, in his message, expressed his "cagerness to be with you... to ease from the eyes of the children the horrific scenes of blood and destruction."

He said the fighting in the Christian enclave has been a "cause of great pain to me."

The Pope affirmed "my solidarity with your effort to contain the fighting in which at least 1,031 people have been killed and 2,769 wounded."

Excerpts of the Pope's message were broadcast in Arabic by Beirut radio stations.



This 15-year-old Palestinian boy shot by Israeli soldiers with live ammunition is treated at a hospital in Jerusalem (UNRWA photo).



The heavily armed presence of Israeli military ubiquitous since the intifada began in December personnel in the West Bank and Gaza has become 1987 (UNRWA photo).

Italy accuses Israel of repression

ROME (R) — Italy's Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti has accused Israel of repression in the occupied territories.

"The Israeli government has managed to respond (to the Palestinian uprising) so far only with repression and the refusal of any negotiations," Andreotti said Thursday.

In Europe, 1989 demolished walls and curtains, dogmas and prejudices... in the Holy Land it consolidated divisions and suspicions," he told the Italian senate during a debate on the latest violence in the Gaza Strip.

Andreotti said Israel should "accept the offer of dialogue that comes from the more responsible part of the Palestinian movement."

"It seems at times, in the light of the rigidity of some Israeli positions, that the very fact that the other party is prepared to compromise accentuates suspicions and is perceived as a subtle threat to the security of the Jewish state," he said.

Andreotti said he favoured sending United Nations observers to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A French government minister Thursday described conditions in the Gaza Strip as tragic and said a speedy peace effort was needed to end the misery.

French Secretary of State for Humanitarian Aid Bernard Kouchner toured Gaza, where 13 Palestinians have died and about 800 been wounded in clashes with Israeli troops and settlers since Sunday's killing of eight Gaza workers near Tel Aviv.

"It was for us that sort of tragedy and sadness, of that wall completely closed and the people behind it," he said of the army curfew clamped on Gaza since Sunday.

"We felt that behind the closed walls that people there were waiting, of course may be waiting for the end of curfew, but also waiting for peace," Kouchner told 40 Palestinian leaders on hunger strike in Arab Jerusalem.

The nationalist leaders are pressing for international protection for Arabs in the occupied territories, where violence exploded after the attack on Sunday by an Israeli gunman.

Kouchner, on a hastily-arranged visit, said France had offered to send medical specialists and aid to the occupied territories.

"We offered the traditional offer, humanitarian help, but of course... the best humanitarian help is peace," he said.

Israeli officials, unhappy with his visit, said it had nothing to do with the government.

A delegation from the Soviet Union's Afro-Asian Solidarity committee arrived in Israel on a fact-finding mission Thursday night at the invitation of the Arab Thought Forum, an Arab Jerusalem think tank, Palestinians said.

Leading nationalist Faisal Al Hussein blamed the Israeli government for the massacre of Arab workers in Rishon LeZion and criticised France and other countries for neglecting the Palestinian people.

"After all we did, we witness an Israeli government which encourages racism. Unfortunately, we also witnessed a lot of neglect from the big states," he said.

Kouchner spoke briefly with reporters. He was quoted by Israeli Radio as saying his first impression was bad. "Gaza looks like a city of ghosts where women walk around with babies in their arms in order to buy food," he was quoted as saying.

Dr. Jorgen Rosendal, the Danish director of the Ahli Arab hospital that Kouchner visited, said the hospital had 250 casualties since Sunday, most of whom suffered gunshot wounds.

Kouchner talked to several of the wounded, including Jamil Musabeh, who was shot in the knee in the same incident Tuesday in which his 18-year-old son was killed and his pregnant 23-year-old daughter-in-law was wounded.

Dr. Zakaria Al Agha, a Palestinian physician, said he thanked Kouchner for France's "positive position" on Palestinian issues. "We also asked and urged the minister to provide international protection to the Palestinians under occupation," he added.

Kouchner said his visit was coordinated with the Israeli Foreign Ministry and he delayed it by one day at the ministry's request. He landed at Ben-Gurion airport Thursday and went directly to the Gaza Strip.

He said on arrival that he hoped to arrange a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Israeli officials.



Court finds Mrs. Mandela's bodyguard guilty of murder

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A Johannesburg court found Winnie Mandela's chief bodyguard Jerry Richardson guilty on Friday of murdering a 14-year-old boy after a trial which her husband Nelson Mandela said was unfair to her.

The Rand supreme court found that Richardson, 41, had killed black activist Stompie Seipei whose battered body was found, shrouded, in Soweto near Johannesburg in January 1989.

Richardson was also convicted of trying to kill another young man by cutting his throat with garden shears and leaving him for dead, four kidnapping charges and five counts of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Richardson led the "Mandela United Football Club," which acted as Mrs. Mandela's security bodyguard in Soweto during the final part of her husband's 27-year imprisonment for fighting white rule at the head of the African National Congress (ANC).

The trial has cast a cloud over Nelson Mandela, who led an ANC team in preliminary talks with the government early this month, starting on the day it began.

One Soweto Mandela angrily accused the state of persecuting his wife by the way it ran the trial.

"When my wife is not charged and the whole case centres around her, she has no way of defending herself and her innocence," he told reporters.

Mrs. Mandela, who denies any wrongdoing, took lawyers' advice and declined defence approaches to testify in the trial.

Before the verdict, state prosecutors said they would consider whether to lay charges against Mrs. Mandela after studying the outcome of the Richardson case.

Two Johannesburg lawyers, who asked not to be named, said the state probably had enough evidence to charge Mrs. Mandela with assault or even complicity with murder.

"I don't think it is going to be a legal decision, it is going to be a political decision," one said.

In February last year anti-apartheid leaders tried the black community to show Mrs. Mandela, once known as "mother of the nation," because of the Seipei incident and other charges as



Winnie Mandela

done by the 30-strong team. Mrs. Mandela has since resumed a prominent role in black politics, alongside her husband and the team has been disbanded.

Witnesses at the trial said Richardson took Seipei and three other youths from a Methodist-run shelter for homeless boys because Mrs. Mandela, a social worker, believed the white clergyman there was sexually abusing them — a charge the church denies.

State witnesses testified that Mrs. Mandela joined in whipping the boys in her home in late December 1988 to persuade them to admit to homosexual ties with the clergyman.

Justice B. O'Donovan found that Mrs. Mandela had been present for at least part of the time that the youths were being assaulted.

Richardson later took away and killed the badly-beaten Seipei, who was also accused of being a police informer.

The state's evidence appears to be honest and credible," O'Donovan said, summing up the three-week trial.

Seipei's death was one of a series of scandals linked to the now-disbanded football club.

During the trial one witness said Mandela, hearing in prison of the boy's abduction, had sent a lawyer to remove them from his wife's blood-splashed house, without success.

Whether Winnie Mandela is tried or not, the numerous activities of her associates will be kept in the public eye by two other trials of people involved in abducting the youths.

Richardson will appear for sentencing August 6.

France airlifts citizens from riot-torn Gabon

LIBREVILLE (R) — France airlifted 800 of its 3,000 citizens from the Gabonese city of Port Gentil Friday after riots against President Omar Bongo spawned widespread looting, French sources said.

"It was a voluntary evacuation but the French military authorities strongly advised us to go," said a 33-year-old woman whose restaurant in this Central African country was set on fire and destroyed during riots Wednesday.

French Cooperation Minister Jacques Poitevin said in Paris that "the government has taken the necessary steps to allow French citizens to leave Port Gentil if they so desire."

He reported fresh trouble during the night in the oil port, 130 kilometres southwest of the capital of Libreville, as protests continued against Bongo.

Gabon's official daily L'Union said two people were killed in riots which began after the body of an opposition leader was discovered in a Libreville hotel Tuesday.

It said 17 people had been seriously injured.

Political opponents of Bongo, who has ruled the oil-rich country single-handedly for 23 years, mounted protests to put pressure on France to remove Bongo from power.

They urged France not to intervene militarily to shore up Bongo, but the former colonial power sent 200 soldiers to back up 50 stationed here.

Residents confirmed that heavy damage was caused to most public buildings in Port Gentil, where France's ELF oil company and the Anglo-Dutch giant Shell have major installations.

They said Bongo's residence there was burned together with a court building, the governor's residence and a brand new hotel belonging to the president.

French residents said looting was extensive and the main streets looked like a war zone, with burned out cars and gutted shops.

Libreville was back to normal Friday and most shops were open.

Earlier rioters attacked shops, set fire to two hotels, a cinema and the country's biggest discotheque, which reportedly belongs to Bongo's wife.



Omar Bongo

One of the hotels burned was the one where the body of Joseph Rendjambe, secretary general of the Gabonese Progress Party, was found. Police said the death was suspicious and supporters charged that Bongo was behind his death.

Bongo told the French newspaper Le Figaro that Rendjambe was killed after he took a girl to a hotel.

"People are spouting nonsense about the regime and saying there are killers in Gabon. When you are involved in politics and you take a girl to a hotel, well..." Bongo said, leaving his thought unfinished.

Later Friday, Bongo warned his opponents he would stop at nothing to crush political unrest in the country.

"We've had enough. If that (unrest) repeats itself, we will go to any length to re-establish order," Bongo told reporters.

But he said the violence would not cause him to renounce on the promise to allow multi-party democracy.

The unrest had spread too rapidly to be spontaneous, Bongo said. He accused the French press of misinformation and of encouraging "the fire and bloodshed in Libreville."

They also urged France not to use its troops to prop him up.

In Paris, the French Communist Party and a leading newspaper both said troops had been sent to Gabon to shore up Bongo's one-party government.

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Oilers wins Stanley Cup

BOSTON, Massachusetts (R) — The Edmonton Oilers, led by captain Wayne Gretzky, won the Stanley Cup for the first time in 27 years.

Edmonton defeated the Boston Bruins 4-1 Thursday to win their fifth national hockey league Stanley Cup title in seven years.

Edmonton made 29 saves for the Oilers, who won the best-of-seven Stanley Cup series 4-1. He won the Conn Smythe trophy as the most valuable player in the playoffs.

"The Conn Smythe trophy should have gone to the entire team, not just me," Gretzky said. "We liked the underdog role. We let them pump themselves up, but if you score the first goal, it defeats them. We did that every game but one."

Gretzky and Craig Simpson had a goal and an assist each Thursday.

"We had not played to our potential in the season, but in the playoffs, we stepped it up a couple of notches," Gretzky said. "This is a great team, and except for one bad period in game three, we would have swept them. But we had to win this game."

After a scoreless first period, Gretzky scored the first goal of the game at one minute, 17 seconds of the second period. Edmonton skated the length of the rink, split the Boston defense, faked goalkeeper Andy Moog and fired in a seven-foot (two metres) backhand shot.

At 9:31 of the period, Edmonton dropped off a backhanded pass in front of goal to Craig Simpson who put the Oilers up 2-0.

Simpson, who had 16 goals in the playoffs, and Edmonton captain Mark Messier assisted on Edmonton's third goal by Steve Smith at 5:09 of the third period. Smith fired a 55-footer (17 metre shot) past Moog high on his glove side. Joe Murphy made it 4-0 Edmonton at 14:53, when he slipped home his own rebound.

The Bruins' Lyndon Byers ruined Edmonton's bid for a shut-out with just 3:30 remaining when he took a pass out and beat Gretzky.

"This definitely breaks the tie with Wayne Gretzky," said Edmonton coach John Muckler. "We rebounded for a championship much faster than expected."

Robson to quit as England manager after World Cup

LONDON (R) — Bobby Robson will quit as England manager after the World Cup finals to take a lucrative job with Dutch club PSV Eindhoven.

English Football Association (F.A.) chief executive Graham Kelly told a press conference Thursday: "The F.A. have agreed to release Mr. Robson from his contract as manager of the England team in order that he can take the job with PSV Eindhoven as manager after the World Cup."

Robson, boss of the national side for the last eight years, has one-year of his England contract to run.

The press conference was called after some popular newspapers reported Thursday that Robson had offered to quit before the World Cup because of a book about to be published containing allegations about his private life.

Robson said: "I have never ever offered my resignation to the F.A. It's appalling rubbish and there's no truth in it. I received an offer from abroad and openly told honestly to see F.A. Chairman Bert Millichip. He said to me that it was unlikely that my contract would be extended... and I accept that."

"I didn't think there was a job for me and he gave me full permission to speak to PSV. But why — why should I do that on the eve of going out with the players to try to win the World Cup," he said.

The England manager insisted that the book containing allegations about his private life had not influenced his decision to quit. "I am not going to resign on that," he said.

Kelly told the press conference that "there was no truth whatsoever in all the rubbish" in some publications Thursday.

"When Mr. Robson finishes his employment with the F.A. he will go with our best wishes for his future and with thanks from everybody, from the chairman to all the members of the council for all the work he has done for the game," Kelly said.

"As we want to clear the situation as soon as we could to avoid any speculation which would detract from his efforts to succeed in the World Cup," he added.

Robson, battling to keep his temper as a source of photographers swarmed around him, added: "I've just come here to clear up the mess. I'm angry but how do you think my players feel?"

PSV's information telephone line said Robson would be joining the Dutch club on a two-year contract.

PSV General Manager Kees Ploegmans was not immediately available for comment, but earlier Thursday he had said: "We (Robson and the club) have had talks... but there is no agreement."

After a successful playing career in which he won 20 England caps, Robson's managerial career got off to a less than successful start.

He quit in under a year his first post with Vancouver Royals in Canada after rowing with co-manager Ferenc Puskas. His second job, managing English club Fulham, ended in tears after 10 months when he read of his sacking on a newspaper billboard.

But his managerial career blossomed when he went to Ipswich in 1989, leading them to victory in the F.A. Cup in 1978 and the UEFA Cup three years later.

Robson took up his current post in 1982 and guided England to the World Cup quarter-finals in Mexico in 1986.

Two years later there were widespread calls for his resignation after England performed badly in the European championship.

Robson was not immediately available for comment, but earlier Thursday he had said: "We (Robson and the club) have had talks... but there is no agreement."

He guided unfashionable Watford from fourth division obscurity to the first division in the space of five years and when he moved to Villa in 1987 he helped them gain promotion from the second division the following year.

Taylor confirmed his reputation this year by taking Villa into the runners-up spot behind Liverpool after challenging for the title for most of the season.

Robson would not be the first England manager to quit for a more lucrative job.

Don Revie resigned suddenly in the middle of an unsuccessful England World Cup qualifying campaign in 1977 to take up a highly paid contract in the United Arab Emirates.

Revie never worked in English football again and died last year.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

China breaks into world chess scene

BEIJING (R) — China, the world's most populous nation, has finally produced a chess champion worthy of the title grand master in the eyes of the International Chess Federation. Ye Rongguang, 27, was the first Chinese person to be given the coveted title after his international grade score reached 2,500 points, the official New China News Agency said. While chess is gaining popularity among younger Chinese, most older people still play China's own distinctive version of the game, which has computers and a "river" running down the middle of the board.

Muster needs intensive treatment

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — Italian Open tennis champion Thomas Muster pulled out of the World Team Cup with an arm injury Wednesday and will need intensive treatment to be fit for next week's French Open. The Austrian, who has shown superb form on clay recently by reaching the final of his last three tournaments, said he was returning to Vienna for treatment on a bone infection in his left playing arm. "I have had this problem for a while now," Muster said. "I am taking this break now so that I can do what I can to avoid missing Paris."

Gardner to miss motorcycling races

NUERBURGRING, West Germany (R) — Former world champion Wayne Gardner will miss both the West German and Austrian 500cc motorcycle grands prix after fracturing his foot in nine places in a crash during practice. A spokesman for the Australian's sponsors has said Gardner had his foot in traction but hoped to recover in time to race at the Dutch grand prix in Assen in five weeks. "He's a bit fed up that he cannot race. But he's not totally dependent," the spokesman said. Gardner, the 1987 world champion who is currently second in this season's standings, was alone on the track when he fell from his bike Thursday after recording the third fastest time during practice for Sunday's West German grand prix. The machine flipped in the air and crashed on to Gardner's right foot. After treatment at the track medical centre, he was moved back to his mobile home. Gardner, who missed five races last season with a broken leg, was still in pain from two broken ribs sustained in an accident during practice for last week's Italian grand prix, in which he finished fourth. The spokesman said that may have contributed to Thursday's spill.

Michel to coach Paris St. Germain

PARIS (R) — France's former soccer team chief Henri Michel is to take over from Yugoslav Tomislav Ivic as Paris St. Germain's coach next season, sources at the French first division club have said. Michel, who coached France from 1984 to 1988 before being replaced by Michel Platini, will be assisted by former Marseille coach Gerard Banide. "The two will coach Paris St. Germain for the next two years," a club spokesman said. Michel, a former international with 58 caps, took charge of the national side from Michel Hidalgo after France's home triumph in the 1984

Belfry to stage 1993 Ryder Cup

VIRGINIA WATER, England (AP) — The Belfry fought off a determined Spanish challenge championed by Severiano Ballesteros and was chosen Thursday to stage the 1993 Ryder Cup golf match between the United States and Europe.

Europe's Ryder Cup committee decided on the casting vote of its chairman, Lord Derby, to keep the match at the central English course rather than move it to the club De Campo on the outskirts of Madrid.

Spain was likely to be a strong contender for the 1997 clash between Europe and the United States, the committee said.

The Belfry, the PGA's headquarters near Birmingham, has been the European venue for the biennial event since 1985 when the home team ended 28 years of American domination by winning the trophy, which it kept after a tie on the same course last year. It also won on American soil in 1987.

Ballesteros had been an outspoken supporter of holding the competition in his home country, claiming that the event was brought back to life by the introduction of non-British or Irish players in the European side in 1977.

Spanish players in particular had helped to rescue the contest from the one-sided affair that it had become, and made a big contribution to the 1985 event, Ballesteros has said.

His view was supported by his countrymen and representatives of the PGA European tour, as well as Bernard Gallacher, Tony Jacklin's successor as Europe's non-playing captain.

There was bitter reaction from Spanish federation president Emma Garcia Ogura, who said: "I realised at the Ryder Cup last year there was an internal fight in British golf. I am very disappointed. I think we should stick together."

Fenech, Harding fights resume in July

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — World title fights featuring Australian Jeff Fenech and Jeff Harding have both been rescheduled for July, promoter Bill Morley announced Friday.

Morley said three-time world champion Fenech now would fight Juan Laporte of Puerto Rico for the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) super-featherweight title at the Sydney Entertainment Centre on July 21.

That fight was originally scheduled for May 26, but had to be postponed when Fenech was stricken with a mystery virus. He is still recovering from that illness and will not resume training until next week.

Harding will defend his WBC light-heavyweight title against Detroit-based Englishman Dennis Andrieu, the former title holder, at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne on July 28. That contest was slated first for

Vicario defeats Garrison in Nations Cup tournament

MARBELLA, Spain (AP) — Arantza Sanchez Vicario roared back after dropping the first set to defeat Zina Garrison 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 Thursday and pull Spain even with the United States at the women's Nations Cup tennis tournament.

Fourteen-year-old Jennifer Capriati had given the U.S. a 1-0 lead when she outlasted Conchita Martinez of Spain 7-5, 6-7 (4-7), 7-6 (7-2) to win the opening singles match.

The fourth-ranked Sanchez Vicario, who defends her French Open title starting Monday in Paris, held service to take a 5-4 lead in the third set, then broke Garrison with a crisp backhand that the American netted.

Garrison, ranked ninth internationally, had been under continual pressure throughout the set, saving a break point before evening up the set at 2-2 and two more to tie it at 4-4.

Sanchez Vicario survived three set points before she was broken by Garrison in the 10th game of the first set, but came back in the second set and bolted to a 5-2 lead.

Garrison, 26, is paired with her regular partner, Lori McNeil, against Sanchez Vicario and Martinez in a doubles match.

The reverse singles was to be played Saturday afternoon at the clay courts of the Manuel Santana tennis centre in the recent Mediterranean resort. The organizers, who hope to make the tournament an annual event, have not revealed the prize money or appearance fees paid to the players.

In the earlier match, Capriati lost a chance to put Martinez away in two sets when she netted a forehand at match point in the 12th game.

Martinez held serve to pull even at 6-6, then took the tie-break 7-4. It was the first time Capriati faced Martinez since turning pro in March.

Capriati broke the ninth-ranked Martinez to open the third set and went up 2-0 before Martinez rallied to win the next three games.

But after Martinez took a 6-5 lead in the set and went up

15-love, Capriati aced her 18-year-old opponent, then smashed a beautiful backhand crosscourt volley that put her into the lead and forced another tie-breaker.

Capriati, the world's 14th-ranked player, raced to a 3-1 lead in the tie-break before slapping a backhand return into the net. But she went on to win all the remaining points, clinching the victory with a passing forehand.

In Geneva, Helen Kelesi of Canada and Cathy Caverzasio of Italy advanced Thursday to the quarterfinals of the \$150,000 European Open women's tennis tournament with straight-set victories.

The third-seeded Kelesi overpowered Linda Harvey-Wild of the United States 6-1, 6-4 in a rain-interrupted match.

"It's difficult to play when a match is stopped but I feel that I am playing well," said the 20-year-old Toronto native and semifinalist in the recent Italian Open. She is ranked 27th in the world.

Eight-seeded Caverzasio, ranked 39th, defeated Angeliki Kanellopoulou of Greece 6-1, 7-5.

Caverzasio waited for the opportune moment before attacking against her opponent's looping groundstrokes.

"I have improved my play and I feel I can keep the ball in play longer and be more patient," said the 17-year-old Italian.

In Bologna, Italy, unseeded Frenchman Thierry Tulasne upset third-seeded Jaime Yzaga of Peru in straight sets Thursday to earn a quarterfinal berth in the \$225,000 Bologna international tournament.

Second-seeded Swiss Marc Rosset also qualified for the quarterfinals of the clay-court competition by downing unseeded Argentine Horacio De La Pena in three sets.

Tulasne, 26, a strong clay court player, defeated the younger Peruvian opponent 6-2, 6-4 in a second-round match.

Yzaga, 22, became the fifth of the seeded players eliminated from the Italian clay-court

tournament. Rosset, 19, struggled to overcome the 23-year-old Argentine 7-6, 3-6, 6-4.

The Swiss player, who won the first-set tie-break 7-3, will play American Lawson Duncan in other quarterfinals.

Duncan, who was unseeded, eliminated home favourite Paolo Canne in Wednesday's second-round action.

Tulasne will be pitted against the winner of a later match between Frenchman Jerome Potier and American Jim Pugh.

The Bologna international, a round of the ATP tour, awards a first prize of \$32,400.

In Duesseldorf, West Germany, Argentina's Martin Jaite defeated Stefan Edberg of Sweden 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 as Argentina blanked Sweden 3-0 Thursday in the \$1.3 million ATP World Team Cup tournament.

In the day's other match, Yugoslavia defeated Austria 3-0. Jaite capitalised on a lack-luster performance by Edberg, the world's no. 2-ranked player.

Edberg conceded he wasn't going all out, pointing out the French Open starts next week. "I didn't intend on showing my best tennis here," said Edberg. "I'll show my best tennis in Paris."

In the second singles match, Argentina's Alberto Mancini defeated Swedish Jonas Svensson 6-4, 6-2.

Javier Frana teamed with Christian Minussi in the doubles to beat Edberg and Magnus Gustafsson 6-3, 7-6 (7-2).

In Yugoslavia's 3-0 sweep of Austria, Goran Ivanisevic defeated Oliver Fuchs 6-4, 6-2 and Goran Prpic overpowered Alexander Antonitsch 6-1, 6-2.

In the doubles match, Goran Zivonjovic and Prpic defeated Fuchs and Thomas Buchmayer 7-6 (7-2), 6-3.

In the doubles match, Goran Zivonjovic and Prpic defeated Fuchs and Thomas Buchmayer 7-6 (7-2), 6-3.

Seeded Rachel McQuinn was ousted Thursday by Karen Quentrec of France in the \$150,000 Strasbourg Open women's tennis tournament.

Quentrec beat the Australian, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

Also in the second-round, top-seeded Isabel Cueto of West Germany won easily, 6-1, 6-0 over French qualifier Valerie Barut.

Manon Bollegraf, the no. 3 seed from the Netherlands downed Alexia Dechaume of France, 6-2, 6-3 and Bulgarian Elena Pampoulova beat American Audra Keller, 6-4, 6-4.

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q1.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A♦K1 ♠5 ♠A1062 ♠763
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 1 NT Pass 1 ♠
What action do you take?

Q2.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A♦K10 ♠A♦K10 ♠A♦K10 ♠A♦K10
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q3.—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A♦K10 ♠A♦K10 ♠A♦K10 ♠A♦K10
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q4.—As South, vulnerable with 40 on score, you hold:
♠A♦K10 ♠A♦K10 ♠A♦K10 ♠A♦K10
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in
THE EGG AND THE STONE
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144
Nastassja Kinski
in
PASSION FLOWER HOTEL
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema NIJOM Tel: 675571
Saeed Saleh/ Samir
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Bush to tell Gorbachev united Germany should belong to NATO

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Thursday that he feels one of his chief missions at next week's summit is to "try to convince" Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that a unified Germany should belong to NATO.

"We'll sit down, he'll tell me his views and I will tell him that he has absolutely nothing to fear from that formulation," Bush said in an interview with ZDF, a German television network.

"Historically, they've seen NATO as an enemy. And we've seen the Soviets as an enemy. Today, the enemy, in my view, is instability, unpredictability (and) lack of confidence in each other."

In a separate interview with the BBC, British television, Bush said that the impasse in the Soviet Union over the fate of Lithuania

and other Baltic states continues to cast a pall over the superpower summit.

"There's a cloud of tension because of the Baltic states," Bush said. "I determined a long time ago that it was important that this summit meeting go forward and be successful."

"And yet I would be misleading you if I didn't say that the inability to get dialogue going there between the Lithuanians and the Soviets does cause a lot of concern to a lot of us here in the United States."

Both interviews were conducted in the White House Thursday afternoon, after Bush addressed some of the same topics at a morning news conference. The White House released transcripts of both interviews.

In the interview with German

TV, Bush was asked what he might do at the May 31-June 3 summit to make the notion of a unified Germany inside NATO more palatable to Gorbachev.

"I feel it is incumbent on me to try to convince Mr. Gorbachev that there is no threat to the Soviet Union with a unified Germany and with a U.S. presence and with Germany as a full member of NATO."

"Now the Soviets don't agree with what I've just said," Bush said.

But he said he intended to engage the Soviet leader into a "full discussion" of the German unity question.

In the same interview, Bush said he was "a little disappointed" that talks over cutting the levels of troops and tanks in Europe had seemed to bog down.

"I thought we would have the agreement further along," he said.

"We've got some big problems here. But we also have a lot of common ground," he told the German TV interviewer.

Asked by the BBC if he believed that Gorbachev would survive politically, Bush said: "I'm inclined to think the answer to your question is yes. But it is not my role as the president of the United States to try to sort out who should lead the Soviet Union."

"In Mr. Gorbachev, I see a man who has presided over dramatic changes in Eastern Europe that benefit freedom and benefit mankind," Bush said. "And so I give him credit for that."

Gorbachev candidate withdraws from Russian presidential race

MOSCOW (AP) — The withdrawal Friday of the Russian presidential candidate backed by Mikhail S. Gorbachev boosted radical reformer Boris N. Yeltsin.

The Soviet News Agency, TASS did not explain why Russian Premier Aleksander V. Vlasov pulled out, but reported his withdrawal had been announced at the Congress of the Russian Federation. The congress will elect the president.

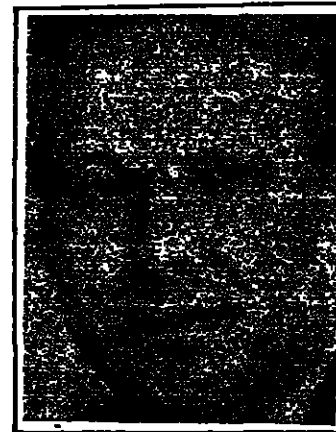
Vlasov's withdrawal was announced shortly after Yeltsin delivered a well-received speech pledging that if elected president of the Soviet Union's largest republic, he would defend it from Moscow's meddling, but refrain from clashing with Gorbachev.

"I am for businesslike relations, dialogue and negotiations with the president and the government, but on the principle that Russia's sovereignty is not damaged," Yeltsin told the Russian Congress.

His white hair gleaming under the bright lights and bass voice booming through the hall of the great Kremlin Palace, Yeltsin pressed a radical platform for bringing the Russian Republic "out of crisis."

"He was competing Friday against six other candidates for support from the 1,059 members of the congress."

Yeltsin left the podium to prolonged applause. Deputies in the Kremlin's corridors said they



Boris Yeltsin

thought Yeltsin's speech had considerably increased his chances to gain the 531 votes needed to win the republic's presidency, but it was still hard to tell if he would make it.

Yeltsin was deposed as Moscow party chief after clashing with Gorbachev, but his popularity among Muscovites was proven when he won election to the national parliament.

He presented a point-by-point programme on how he would fight for Russia's sovereignty, unleash market forces, increase housing and flood the stores with consumer goods.

He blasted the government programmes for a transition to a market economy presented by Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov Thurs-

day, saying it had "already created panic in the stores today."

The first phase of the government's programme is a sharp increase in bread prices slated for July 1.

Prices for other foods were to double starting Jan. 1. Later, a new taxation system and bank interest rates far higher than the 2 per cent now charged and paid would be introduced and some state enterprises would become private firms.

Yeltsin backed an alternative programme involving sale of government property, more liberal laws on ownership and foreign loans to achieve the transition without "everything falling on the shoulders of the people."

During a question-and-answer session, he was asked several times about his relations with Gorbachev, who entered the hall halfway through the speech. Yeltsin, formerly Gorbachev's protégé, has become his nemesis in the last two years, blaming him in public for "halfway reforms."

On Wednesday, Gorbachev attacked Yeltsin's programme, accusing him of calling for the "breakup of the Soviet Union."

But Yeltsin said their personal relationship would not influence their interaction as presidents.

The post of president of the Russian Republic is new. Gorbachev's powers as president of the 15-republic Soviet Union recently were expanded.

Ryzhkov may resign over reforms

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov indicated Friday he would quit if he failed to secure backing for his radical package to transform the Soviet economy into a market system.

"If there is no confidence in the government, then a new government will have to start work," Ryzhkov told a news conference.

"If I see there is no trust from the people, then I will not go on," he said.

Ryzhkov's deputy in the parliament has denounced the programme, saying it would lead to the end of the Soviet Union.

Ryzhkov said he was for a vote of no confidence in the government.

Ryzhkov has pledged that key elements of the platform, particularly steep price increases, will be put to public discussion and possibly a national referendum.

He told reporters that panic buying had already begun in much of the country and appealed for calm, particularly in view of a three-fold rise in bread prices due to be introduced in stages from July 1.

"We understand that several negative phenomena have begun to appear. This wave, in connection with bread and bread products, has rolled through half the country," he said.

"Someone gets worried here, someone begins to understand (that prices are going to go up), and now the wave has reached Moscow. I appeal for restraint and calm in this matter," Ryzhkov added.

Yuri Maslyukov, head of the State Planning Commission, Gosplan, which has been the lynchpin of the centrally planned economy for decades, said the organisation would cease to function once the market economy was in place.

"In the conditions of a market economy there will be no Gosplan. There will be a Ministry of the Economy with its functions and obligations," said Maslyukov, who is also a Soviet deputy prime minister.

Lithuanians discuss Gorbachev threat of presidential rule

MOSCOW (AP) — Leading Lithuanian lawmakers discussed a threat Friday by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to impose his rule on the Baltic republic unless they shelve their independence declaration, a Lithuanian spokesman said.

Gorbachev told four Lithuanian legislators Thursday that he would lift a crippling embargo and reimburse the republic for losses it caused if the 2-month-old declaration of independence were suspended, said Valdas Antanaitis, an observer member of Lithuania's legislature.

The president of the republic's parliament met in executive session Friday in Vilnius — Lithuania's capital — to hear a report on the meeting with Gorbachev, Antanaitis said.

The 24-member presidium, headed by Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, sets parliament's agenda and has a strong influence on how legislation is handled.

The Soviet leader said Lithuania could win independence in two years if it follows Kremlin procedure, Antanaitis said.

But Gorbachev also threatened to impose presidential rule on Lithuania if it did not freeze the independence declaration, Antanaitis said, which would be a major escalation of the test of wills between the Kremlin and Lithuania. But Antanaitis said Gorbachev did not spell out what measures he took under presidential rule.

The four legislators who spoke with Gorbachev told him that Lithuania is unlikely to agree to his demand.

Gorbachev also tried to convince them that his reforms "in several years will make the Soviet Union so different, you will want to come back," Antanaitis said.

In March, Soviet lawmakers approved legislation establishing a new powerful presidency and granted the chief executive au-

thority to impose presidential rule in restive republics.

The possibilities include disbanding Lithuania's parliament — its first freely elected legislature in 50 years — replacing the Lithuanian government with Moscow-appointed officials, and imposing martial law.

According to Antanaitis, Gorbachev said Lithuania must freeze its declaration of independence while negotiations on economic, military and transportation issues are conducted.

The embargo has caused a severe fuel shortage and already thrown 19,000 Lithuanians out of work. Gas sales to private cars were halted Wednesday.

Officials in the republic have said that as of Friday only emergency vehicles can get fuel.

Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian leaders have said they are willing to compromise but will not surrender their goal of seceding from the Soviet Union.

Religious rows burst into Peru presidential campaign

LIMA (R) — Religious rows have burst into Peru's presidential election campaign barely two weeks before votes choose between an agnostic and a Catholic backed by Protestant Evangelists.

The Roman Catholic Church this week attacked Evangelists who have tried to drum up votes from the pulpit for independent candidate Alberto Fujimori.

The Evangelists have also denounced aspects of Catholicism.

The controversy is swirling around Fujimori's campaign at a time when he faces charges of tax evasion and has sagged in opinion polls before the June 10 run-off election against centre-right novelist Mario Vargas Llosa.

Political analysts said the row revealed ugly biases just beneath the surface of Peruvian society, in much the same way that Fujimori's Japanese ancestry provoked a racist backlash among some supporters of Vargas Llosa early in the campaign.

Fujimori has won the support of flourishing Evangelical sects attracted by his calls for hard work and honesty in government. His running mate for second vice-president, Carlos Garcia, is former president of the National Evangelical Council.

But Catholic leaders, representing the 90 per cent of the Peruvians who call themselves Catholic, accuse groups like the Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh-Day Adventists of going too far.

Bible-thumping Evangelical preachers, with growing following among the poor, have called on their parishioners to vote for Fujimori from the pulpit, often attacking Catholic icons like the Virgin Mary in their sermons.

Lima Archbishop Augusto Vargas Alzamora issued an open letter Thursday alerting Catholics to "the insidious campaign unleashed against our faith by so-called Evangelical groups which do not respond to the Christian tradition."

Without referring to Fujimori by name, Vargas Alzamora accused Evangelists of wounding "the religious feeling of the majority of our people on the basis of the political power (the Evangelists) have reached..."

The letter raised a storm of controversy. "The holy war is unleashed," read a banner headline in the Lima newspaper El Nacional.

Lay groups indirectly affirmed that good Catholics could not vote for Fujimori. One issued a statement saying that "to vote for those backed by sects contrary to the Catholic Church... would be to vote against the Catholic conscience."

The church's reaction has cast it in the ironic position of appearing to back a self-declared agnostic, Vargas Llosa.

Fujimori, whose Japanese immigrant parents converted to Catholicism from Buddhism, has declined to comment directly on the archbishop's letter. But leftist politicians who support him called on the church to back off.

NATO sharply slashes war games in Europe

MONS, Belgium (AP) — NATO has acknowledged reduced East-West tensions by sharply reducing the frequency and size of the war games it will conduct in Europe in the coming years, the alliance's chief military commander said.

U.S. Gen. John R. Galvin, the supreme allied commander in Europe, said authorities have begun using computers and other high-tech equipment to stimulate manoeuvres and make up for the loss of field work.

"We have cut down significantly on the amount of noise, manoeuvre damage (and) general bother, and yet we have accomplished our exercises to train to the standards that are required," he said in an interview Thursday at his official residence in Mons, about 60 kilometres southwest of Brussels.

A new report by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) shows that authorities have cancelled or trimmed 47 per cent of the approximately 100 exercises that will begin late this year and run over three years in Europe.

Ten major manoeuvres have been scrapped; 22 exercises have been combined, and an additional 22 have been reduced, it said.

Some exercises held annually now will take place every three years.

Fewer tanks and other heavy equipment will be used.

The report estimated the slimmer training schedule would mean an annual savings of about \$21 million in property damage in West Germany. Heavy tanks tear up farmers' fields and cut into roads used in the manoeuvre.

The number of soldiers assigned to large-scale manoeuvres in Northern and Central Europe already has been cut in half, according to the report.

The United States, for example, sent 118,750 soldiers to a key exercise in Europe in 1988. This year, 88,750 soldiers showed up.

Some 32,000 troops practised in a large-scale British manoeuvre in 1987, but only 7,000 were on the field last year.

Galvin said that senior officers can use computer simulations of crisis situations to get their training. Smaller units, often swallowed up in the big manoeuvres, get more chances to run through drills and perfect their skills.

"This is better training than we had before," he said.

"I'm not trying to whitewash a reduction in training by saying we still get better training," he said. "I could prove it to any professional."

The changes are part of many that will be made in NATO in the coming months to reflect reduced East-West military tensions.

"People don't want big exercises because the looming threat of an immediate war has lessened," said Galvin.

He also said that under a new plan to ease response times in war, quick-reaction combat planes will remain at full alert, but some front-line soldiers will have twice as long to react to an enemy attack.

The response times of air and ground forces in Western Europe could be relaxed further if the Soviet Union pulled more troops out of Eastern Europe, he said.

"There is no use keeping as many people smuggled right up close on response times unless it's absolutely necessary," he said. "With the changes (in Eastern Europe), it's not quite as necessary."

The new response times — the amount of time it takes a unit of soldiers to react to an enemy attack — go into effect on July 1.

In Europe, all ground and most air forces, including helicopters and surface-to-air-missile units will be affected by the changes, Galvin said.

There will be no easing of the reaction time for full-alert interceptors, which have only a few minutes notice to be in the air to fend off an attack.

Liberia claims recapture of Buchanan Port from rebels

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Liberian President Samuel Doe has claimed his forces recaptured the strategic port of Buchanan, a Liberian missionary radio station said.

Elwa Radio, monitored in this neighbouring capital, quoted a Ministry of Information release as saying government troops "have recaptured the port of Buchanan..."

The radio went on to say that "President Doe... confirmed reports of the successes made by the government troops in Grand Bassa County. The president said that the victory of the Liberian soldiers is a clear indication that the armed forces are on their way to wiping out the remaining rebels in Liberia."

No independent confirmation of the government claim was immediately available.

Rebels of the National Patriotic Front led by Charles Taylor, a former Doe aide, invaded Liberia from its northeastern border with

Ivory Coast on Dec. 24.

Doe's troops had been unable to halt the advance of the rebels, who attacked the southern Atlantic Ocean port of Buchanan Sunday.

The capture of Buchanan, 80 kilometres from Liberia's main international airport and 140 kilometres from the capital, was a major victory for the rebels.

It is the country's main port and exit point for iron ore, which earns more than 70 per cent of the country's foreign currency. The mine itself, in northern Nimba County, was captured by rebels last week.

The government only confirmed Buchanan had been captured Wednesday, saying it would retake the town but wanted to minimise casualties.

Meanwhile, wives of some 10 men beheaded in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, Thursday linked the killings of tribalism and the guerrilla war.

The United States, Liberia's main foreign aid donor, condemned the violence and called on the government to "vigorously pursue" those responsible.

"As a close friend of Liberia, we call upon all Liberians to end the ethnically related violence that has placed Monrovia and its environs in the grip of fear," the U.S. embassy said in a statement.

Wives of the victims, many of whom were soldiers, told the Daily Observer newspaper that their husbands all were Gio and Mano, the two dominant tribes in Nimba County. Many rebels are Gio and Mano.

The women said the men were taken by force from the homes at night or under the pretense of being called for army duties.

One of the women told the newspaper that people who abducted her husband from his home told her: "Don't cry on my name. Cry on Charles Taylor's name. We will finish you before the rebels come" to Monrovia.

Roh tells Japan to be a good neighbour

TOKYO (Agencies) — South Korean President Roh Tae-woo said Friday Japan must recognise why Koreans still felt bitter over their country's colonial sufferings and that Japan must start acting like a good neighbour.

"I believe you find it difficult to understand the heartache of a Korean child who was whipped by his teacher for using his own name, not the Japanese name imposed on him, and for using his native language," Roh told parliament in Tokyo in a reminder of Japan's harsh occupation of Korea between 1910 and 1945.

"There must be true understanding between our two peoples on the basis of truth," said Roh, the first South Korean head of state to address the chamber.

"Now we have an opportunity to break off the shackles of the past and clean up negative residues of what went on in bygone days."

He added: "I am visiting Japan in the conviction that now is the time for our two nations to display genuine mutual respect and understanding, and become next-door neighbours in spirit as well as geographically."

Assemblymen stood to applaud Roh when he left the chamber.

On Thursday Emperor Akihito told Roh at a banquet that he "deeply regretted" the sufferings Japan caused to the Korean people. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu went a step further and offered a formal apology for that period.

Roh is only the second South Korean president to come to

Japan, after Chun Doo Hwan in 1984. Many South Koreans were carefully watching for the wording and sincerity of Akihito's statement as an indication of the success of Roh's visit.

South newspapers Friday said the emperor's words were acceptable as an apology, but called on Tokyo to translate them into action to improve the treatment of Japan's 680,000-strong Korean community.

"Unprecedented sincerity... on the surface, unhappy past resolved," read a headline in the Hankook Ilbo. "Foundation laid for relations as North East Asian partners."

But the daily added: "Translation of the apology into action, rather than rhetoric, is the key to friendly relations." Many Koreans now in Japan were shipped there decades ago as slave labour, others are their descendants. They complain they are the objects of daily discrimination.

In his speech broadcast live nationwide, Roh asked Japan to open its domestic market to South Korean exports as it had done for U.S. and European goods and services. He said he hoped Japan would step up the transfer to Seoul of advanced technology and basic science know-how.

Roh said Japan's exports to South Korea, which stood at a mere \$200 million in 1965, topped \$17 billion last year. "It can be clearly seen that Korea's development contributes to Japan's

prosperity also," he added.

Roh predicted that the Korean peninsula would be reunified peacefully within the next decade, and said that, meanwhile, Seoul had no wish to isolate the rival Communist government of North Korea.

The president ended his remarks on a visionary note, saying he hoped the day would come when young Japanese could travel by undersea tunnel to Korea, meet Korean friends in Seoul and go together to Peking, Moscow, Paris and London.

Even members of Japan's Socialist and Communist parties were in parliament to hear Roh's speech. Six years ago, during Chun's visit, the leftist parties boycotted formal ceremonies saying Chun was a military dictator.

Roh was scheduled to meet later with Japanese business leaders and to hold a second meeting with Kaifu.

He heads for home Saturday, stopping over in the Japanese city of Osaka to meet representatives of the large Korean community there.

South Korea Friday called for Koreans to put aside memories of harsh Japanese rule and accept belated Japanese expressions of regret.

But not all Koreans were willing to accept the Japanese emperor's professed regret for 35 years of brutal rule. Disidents and opposition lawmakers accused Japan of "diplomatic rhetoric."

Korean leaders, pragmatically looking toward future relations with its neighbouring country, said it was time to "untie the knot on the past."

"We should clear away drags of the dark past, put the past behind us," said a statement issued by presidential spokesman Lee Soo-Jong.

Bitter and emotional memories of the 1910-1945 colonial rule of Japan have long played a significant role in relations between South Korea and Japan.

South Korean President Roh Tae-woo's three-day state visit to Tokyo is the second by a South Korean head of government since the two nations established relations in 1965. It was controversial among many Koreans who demanded Japanese Emperor Akihito apologise for his nation's militaristic past.

Thousands of radical students staged violent anti-Japanese protests Thursday, burning Japanese flags and demanding Roh cancel his "humiliating" visit to Tokyo. Elderly citizens staged noisy protests for 10 days in front of the Japanese embassy, culminating in an attempted suicide.

"I think the Japanese government has made tremendous efforts to satisfy our position," said Vice Foreign Minister Yoo Chong-Ha. He said the government viewed the remarks as a sign that Japan "intends to seek a new, future-oriented relationship and put an end to the legacy of the past."

Suicide bomber kills 4 in Colombian drug capital

MEDELLIN, Colombia (R) — A suicide bomber detonated a powerful car bomb when he was stopped by police in the Colombian drug capital of Medellin Thursday, killing himself and at least three others, police said.

The bomb exploded outside a luxury hotel, setting three cars on fire, blowing a big crater in the road and shattering windows in the hotel, a Reuters correspondent staying in the hotel said. A burst water main spurted water into the air.

The bomb, estimated to contain between 60 and 80 kilograms of explosives, went off three days before Sunday's presidential elections. The government says powerful cocaine barons, waging a nine-month-old war on the state, are plotting to disrupt the poll.

The elections will decide the future of President Virgilio Barco's crackdown on the drug barons which has provoked a wave of retaliatory bombings and assassinations.

In a separate attack, gunmen

killed a policeman guarding the Medellin offices of the Liberal Party, police said. Drug barons have threatened to kill Liberal candidate Cesar Gaviria, who is expected to win Sunday's elections with a tough anti-drug platform.

The nephew of a Liberal senator was shot dead by gunmen 200 kilometres north of Medellin, local officials said.

Police said a driver detonated the bomb when police stopped his car at a checkpoint outside the Intercontinental Hotel in a wealthy suburb of Medellin.

A police sergeant was about to search the vehicle when the bomb exploded, killing the sergeant, who was blown six metres. The bomber was killed instantly.

Police said another two people died and 10 were wounded, including five police officers.

The car bomb caused carnage in the street outside the hotel. A man with a hand blown off came up to a photographer pleading for help. Another man who had lost a foot lay in the road screaming.

Queen Elizabeth grumbles at prices of clothes

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, believed to be the world's richest woman, grumbles about the price she has to pay for her clothes and is happier wearing a pair of comfortable old shoes, according to her favourite couturier, Sir Hardy Amies says in the May 23 issue of the Woman's Own weekly that the queen is not a "clothes person."

The designer, who will be 81 in July, is "dressmaker by appointment to Her Majesty the Queen, a title granted by Buckingham Palace."

"She grumbles about our prices, drops hints and things, but she has been told that those are the prices," Amies said. He said the queen often ignores his advice. "She doesn't care, basically. She listens to our advice, then goes off and wears shabby shoes because they are comfortable. 'In my opinion that is perfectly all right...'" he said.

Princess Anne, the queen's daughter, "won't pay our prices; and she's happy with the way she dresses," said Amies.

Turner, Fonda steal show at CNN party

ATLANTA, Georgia (AP) — Ted Turner and Jane Fonda stole the show at the anniversary party for Cable News Network (CNN), the Turner brainchild that turns 10 to June 1. The Turner broadcast casting chairman and the actress-casting chairman drew crowds wherever they turned during the celebration Sunday night at CNN Centre, headquarters for Turner's media empire. But the attention did not keep them from being openly affectionate. While a highlight tape of CNN's first 10 years was shown on a giant monitor, Fonda wrapped her arms around Turner's waist and rested her chin on his shoulder and he caressed her hand. "I have to kind of pinch myself to realise it's gone by so quickly," Turner said in brief remarks about CNN's first decade. "The next 10 won't be quite as exciting as the first 10, but stay tuned." The party, which drew about 3,000 guests, was timed to coincide with the opening of the National Cable Television Association's annual convention, next door at the Georgia World Congress Centre.

Ivana, Trump serves 'other woman' with subpoena

NEW YORK (AP) — Maria Maples touted her new jeans in her first press conference since emerging as the alleged other woman in the breakup of Donald Trump's marriage. But Trump's wife, Ivana, stole the spotlight. Two process servers hired by Mrs. Trump slapped Maples with legal papers Wednesday requiring the actress to tell about her friendship with Trump. An attorney for Mrs. Trump, Michael Kennedy, said he wants Maples to reveal how long she was seeing Trump without Mrs. Trump's knowledge. Maples tried to avoid questions about the Trumps at the press conference to announce her new \$600,000 contract as a spokeswoman for No Excuses jeans. The ad campaign kicks off in August. Anticipating the question before it was asked, the 26-year-old Maples refused to discuss her relationship with Trump. "I don't want to comment on that. He's still working on his own personal situation."

The Trumps, neither of whom has filed for divorce, are haggling over the terms of a \$25 million post-nuptial agreement. The master deal maker says the agreement is ironclad. Mrs. Trump disagrees and wants more.

Liz Taylor 'in good spirits'

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor, who came close to death from viral pneumonia last month, has improved significantly and is in good spirits, one of her doctors has said. Taylor, 58, is resting comfortably in St. John's Hospital and has shown a positive reaction to treatment for a yeast infection in her blood. Dr. Michael Roth said in a statement: "Taylor, who previously had a series of major operations for back problems and underwent treatment to overcome what was called her dependency on alcohol and prescribed drugs, is expected to remain in the hospital for a month. The much-married Oscar winner entered St. John's five weeks ago for treatment of viral pneumonia. Doctors at one point said she came close to death."